The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 36, No. 2, February 2004

Collection / UNC-CH Libraries

Carolina country

FIRST LIGHT
OF
FREEDOM
Former slaves give thanks by the creek's edge at the sight of the island —" if you can cross the creek to Roanoke Island, you will find 'safe haven'."
IONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Remembering Roanoke Island's Freedmen's Colony

#BXNGZPW **********FIRM 27599
#0440200002293540# 7 41
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
READING RM NC COLLECTION
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Touchstone Energy

Y'all Know You're From North Carolina If . . . Page 33

Top Choice of Fund-Raisers Everywhere

Fruit Pie Candles

FRUIT PIE CANDLES are uniquely designed to look and smell like freshly baked pies. That's why these candles are the top choice of fund-raisers everywhere. Packed 12 Fruit Pie Candles per carry case in an assortment of six delicious fruit flavors. You sell each candle for $5.00.

FREE BONUS CASES - For every 7 cases you order and sell, your group receives one FREE case worth $60.00 more in profits!

SUPER 50% PROFIT
WITH FREE BONUS CASE PROFITS!

PROFITS ADD UP FAST!

Sell	Free Bonus	Total Profit
7 cases	1 case	$240.24
21 cases	3 cases	$720.75
28 cases	4 cases	$961.00
42 cases	6 cases	$1,441.50
56 cases	8 cases	$1,922.00

Order Now!
Call TOLL FREE
1-800-876-9967

To: **Revere COMPANY** PO Box 751, Montgomery, AL 36101-0751

- ❑ Please send ____ Cases of FRUIT PIE CANDLES
- ❑ Please send a sample FRUIT PIE CANDLE. Enclosed is $5.00

Your Name _____ Title _____

Your Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Group Name _____ No. of Members _____

School/Church/Scout
Sponsoring Organization Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Organization Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name, address and phone of 2 additional adult officers:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

_____ Phone (_____) _____
Signature Adult Responsible for Order/Payment

TERMS: For your convenience, freight is prepaid to you. These charges appear on your bill and you are given extra free merchand Proceeds from the sale of this extra free merchandise completely pay for the freight. All orders subject to approval. Payment for full orde not due until 30 days after receipt of merchandise. Unopened full cases of merchandise may be returned freight prepaid by you for cr within 45 days of scheduled sales date less a $2.00 per case charge for reinspection and restocking. To qualify for FREE Bonus Cases, payment must be made by invoice date with no returns. Price and styles subject to change.

3MCCC4

Carolina country

Read monthly in more than 530,000 homes

Published by North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

(800) 662-8835
carolina.country@ncemcs.com
www.carolinacountry.com

Editor
Michael E.C. Gery, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3062*)

Associate Editors
Renee C. Gannon, CCC (800/662-8835 *ext. 3209*)
Tara Verna, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3134*)

Contributing Editor
Karen Olson House, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3036*)

Art Director
Nicole L. Ferrari, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3090*)

Graphic Design Intern
Mingen Shieh, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3110*)

Business Coordinator
Jenny Lloyd, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3091*)

Advertising Manager
Jennifer Boedart Hoey, (800/662-8835 *ext. 3077*)

Executive Vice President & CEO
Chuck Terrill

Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations
Nelle Hotchkiss

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

All content © Carolina Country unless otherwise indicated.

Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country® is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)
Postmaster: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, $8 per year. $20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, $6.
Address Change: To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.

Printed on recycled paper

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062.

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (888) 388-2460.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

Volume 36, No. 2, February 2004

features

10 ON TOP OF MT. PISGAH
Norman Harrill has plenty of adventure stories about working 45 years on top of Mt. Pisgah. The transmitter station there is one of Haywood EMC's most interesting service accounts.

14 THE ROANOKE ISLAND FREEDMEN'S COLONY
An experimental, planned community for freed slaves between 1862 and 1867 was an early avenue on the network to freedom.

16 THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP
Three sites within the Great Dismal Swamp have been designated as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

18 EDGECOMBE COUNTY VOICES
The stories of long-timers from Edgecombe County are collected in a book.

22 HOME IMPROVEMENT HORROR STORIES
Your intentions were good. But some of you actually admit how inept you were.

31 THE CHILD GUARDE
Electric cooperatives support the development of a tamper-proof, electric outlet protector.

33 YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM NORTH CAROLINA IF . . .
Y'all know it's true.

departments

FIRST PERSON 4
Union Power's Tony Herrin checks the vital signs of today's electric cooperatives. . . . Was Abraham Lincoln born in North Carolina? The debate continues.

MORE POWER TO YOU 8
A new national study concludes that America's electricity sector must transform itself.

CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE 34
Valentine's Day specials.

TAR HEEL LESSONS 37
Information and fun for teachers and students.

ONLINE 38
Boosting the power of your word processor.

MARKETPLACE 39-43
A showcase of goods and services.

JOYNER'S CORNER 41
Solving this puzzle could earn you $50.

CAROLINA COMPASS 45
February events and exhibits.

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE 47
Pruning advice.

ENERGY CENTS 48
Cleaning your duct system.

CLASSIFIED ADS 49
New this month: Truck stop for sale.

CAROLINA KITCHEN 42
Marinated Beef Tenderloin, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Sweetheart Trifle.

On the Cover

Dellerva Collins (left) and Virginia Tillett are leaders among the Roanoke Island citizens who kept alive the heritage of the historic Freedmen's Colony, commemorated in 2001 by the "First Light of Freedom" marker at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. (Photo by Drew Wilson)

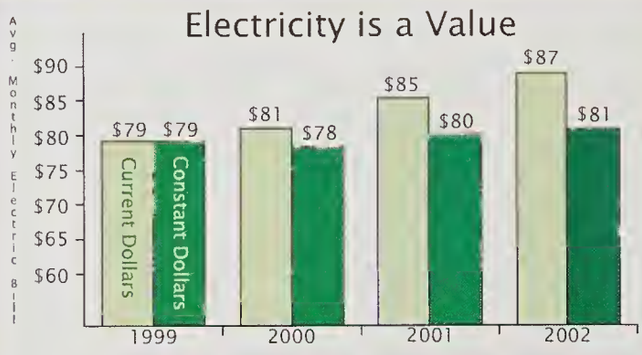
Learn about the Freedmen's Colony on pages 14-15.

Co-op vital signs are strong

By Tony E. Herrin

In a day when it seems that a dollar buys less and less, the men and women working at your local electric cooperative are doing what they can to make sure you get the most out of every dollar you spend with them.

Recent data collected by the Rural Utilities Service for calendar year 2002 and pulled together by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association shows just that. For the last 10 years, electric co-ops across the country have shown steady improvement in the ratio of customers per distribution system employee. In 1992, there was an average of 228 customers per employee; in 2002, there was an average of 263 customers per employee. This shows that even though co-ops are adding customers, we are keeping our costs down by running more efficiently.



Since 1999, monthly residential electric bills for co-ops customers have risen about 3% per year. However, adjusted for inflation, the increase has been less than 1%. SOURCE: NRECA, RUS

Co-ops have also managed to keep electric co-op rates stable and competitive. The rate of inflation has been under 3 percent for most of the last 10 years, but co-op rates and costs have generally stayed under that rate during those years. For example, in 1999 the average monthly electric bill for co-op customers was $79 and in 2002 it was $87, which, after being adjusted for inflation, is an increase of less than 1 percent in costs to the consumer.

And compared to other consumer goods, electricity remains a value. For example, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the cost of gas has increased nearly 4 percent every year for the past ten years. The cost of milk has increased about 3.5 percent every year for the past 10 years. However, the cost of electricity has increased just under .5 percent every year over the past 10 years. Even as consumer reliance on electricity increases, the overall cost has increased less than one percent annually.

And what of the growth of electric co-ops compared to investor-owned utilities? Co-ops are going strong. Data from 2002 showed that rural electric distribution co-ops grew 2.5 percent in 2002—which equals 800,000 additional persons served—whereas total industry consumer growth was 1.2 percent in 2002. In fact, co-ops have outpaced the consumer growth of the rest of the industry for more than 10 years. At Union Power Cooperative, our growth has been phenomenal—63 percent growth between 1992 and 2002, and 148 percent since 1982.

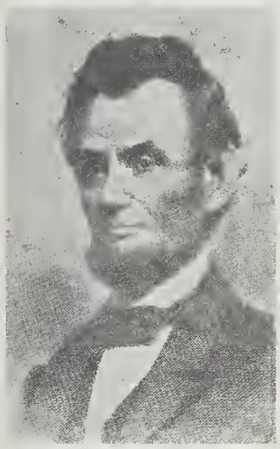
Your electric cooperative was created to serve the people it provides power to—not to provide profits to out-of-town power companies. The principle on which we were founded—service to our local communities—is just as strong today as the day we opened our doors. Regardless of how much electricity you use, your local electric cooperative will do everything it can to help you get the most out of your power dollar.

Tony E. Herrin is executive vice president and general manager of Union Power Cooperative, which serves nearly 50,000 member accounts in Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanly counties. He is also a member of the cooperatives' statewide Power Supply Committee.

Was Abraham Lincoln a native Tar Heel?

More point and counterpoint

Last February we published an article by Charles Joyner recounting the continuing speculation over the birthplace of our nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln [see the story at www.carolinacountry.com]. The article cited a book published by James Cathey in 1899 asserting that Lincoln's mother, the unmarried Nancy Hanks, became pregnant while living with the Abram Enloe family in Oconalufty, then of Swain County in western North Carolina. Mr. Enloe was a well-known, tall, angular livestock dealer. The story says that the wife of Abram Enloe, who was suspected of impregnating Nancy Hanks, banished Ms. Hanks from the household, and that Ms. Hanks was taken in at a neighbor's place in Jonathan's Creek, Haywood County. Later, the neighbor moved the still pregnant Nancy to Puzzle's Creek in Rutherford County, where she gave birth to a boy and named him Abraham. She then ended up marrying a man named Tom Lincoln and moved to Kentucky.



We also published a photo of a man named Wesley Enloe, born in western North Carolina in 1811 as the ninth son of Abram, whose features resemble Lincoln's and who was quoted in Cathey's book supporting the Enloe connection.

After publishing the piece, we received letters that both supported and refuted the story, including reference to a scholarly article by David Andrew Sturgill that dismisses the Enloe parentage.

Recently, we received three more letters, just in time for publication during the month of Lincoln's birth. Lincoln himself set the date of his birth at Feb. 12, 1809, though some have attempted to disprove that claim.

Thomas Fretty in San Francisco, seeing the story on our Web site, said in December that President Lincoln wrote a letter to Soloman Lincoln on March 6, 1848, stating that he was born in Kentucky. Mr. Fretty quotes from the letter as published in the book "Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1832-1858," published by Library of America in 1989. A portion of the letter says, "I was born Feb. 12th, 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky. My father's name is Thomas; my grandfather's was Abraham, the same of my own. My grandfather went from Rockingham County in Virginia to Kentucky, about the year 1782; and, two years afterwards, was killed by Indians. We have a vague tradition, that my great-grandfather went from Pennsylvania to Virginia; and that he was a Quaker. . . Owing to my father being left an orphan at the age of six years, in poverty, and in a new country, he became a wholly uneducated man; which I suppose is the reason why I know so little of our family history."

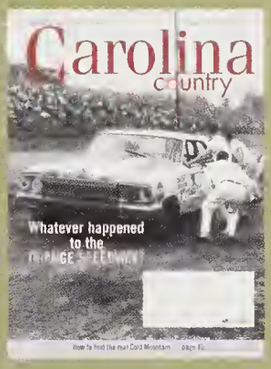
Meanwhile, Chad Medford sent us information about his Web site (www.blueridge.net/~chadm) that describes Rutherford County's claim on Lincoln's birthplace and includes a story told by Tom Melton, who is related to Lincoln's nephew. The story is that the Enloe family is from Rutherford County and that Nancy Hanks was an illegitimate daughter of a local woman, Lucy Hanks, who was an itinerant spinner. Nancy, they say, was taken in as a young girl to work in the large Abram Enloe household. The family later moved to Swain County when Nancy became pregnant. When Mrs. Abram Enloe banished the pregnant Nancy Hanks, Ms. Hanks returned to Bostic in Rutherford County and gave birth to little Abe in a cabin on Puzzle Creek. The Bostic claim further asserts that Mr. Enloe arranged for a local sawmill worker, Tom Lincoln, to marry Nancy and head for Kentucky. This story alleges that Tom Lincoln was stocky and low-browed and not very smart, and that one of Mr. Enloe's legitimate sons, Wesley, looked a lot like the President.

Then, Joan Howard Wallace of Murphy, state registrar for the Daughters of the American Revolution, told us that Frank Young of Cullowhee at last year's Murphy Heritage Days sold out of his recent book entitled "Nancy Hanks, Single Mother of Abraham Lincoln," which she says supports the Enloe connection.

And finally, we learned of a 2001 essay by R. Vincent Enlow, published by Genealogy Today Publications (www.genealogytoday.com/us/lincoln/genesis.html), which not only supplies copious information supporting the North Carolina Enloe connection and birthplace, but also challenges the stories about Lincoln's birth in Kentucky.

So the debate goes on.

CORRECTIONS



John Whitlock of Carthage and Paul Miller of western North Carolina pointed out to us that the stock car pictured at the old Orange Speedway on the cover of January's magazine should have been identified as a 1964 Ford Galaxie 500, not a 1964 Ford Fairlane 500.

Also, we reversed the locations of the communities of Cat Square and Sun on our map accompanying Jay Barnes' story about North Carolina's atlas oddities. We knew better.

CONTACT US

Web site: www.carolinacountry.com
E-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com
Phone: (919) 875-3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
Mail: 3400 Sumner Blvd.,
Raleigh, NC 27616

VINYL SIDING & WINDOWS

Improving the look of your home has never been easier.

Now is the time to beautify your home with Premium Vinyl Siding or Custom Replacement Windows from Sears. We offer flexible financing‡, quality materials and a project coordinator to stay with you every step of the way. And, because it comes from Sears…

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back℠

Save $750*

Save $500*

SEARS

Premium Vinyl Siding:

- Features weather resistant woodgrain texture panels in a variety of colors.
- Easy maintenance, simply wash and wipe it down.
- Helps reduce heating and cooling costs through an underlayment system.***

Custom Replacement Windows:

- Feature many styles that tilt in for easy cleaning.
- Are ENERGY STAR® qualified for all regions of the USA‡ to allow for more efficient heating and cooling to give your home improved comfort.***
- Have solid vinyl frames and sashes, you may never have to paint or caulk your windows again.

YES! Call me to arrange my FREE no obligation consultation and in-home estimate.

I want to SAVE:

- ☐ $750 off* Premium Vinyl Siding
- ☐ $500 off* Custom Replacement Windows

I am also interested in receiving:

- ☐ $750 off* Custom Cabinet Refacing
- ☐ $150 off* Custom Entry Door Systems

Best time to call me is:

☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon ☐ Evening

My home is:

☐ Wood ☐ Brick ☐ Block ☐ Other

SEARS
Good life. Great price.

Call for your free in-home estimate

1-800-275-8720

Hurry! Respond by 3/15/04

Please send your request by March 15, 2004 for your **FREE** in-home estimate and consultation to:

Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc.
PO Box 522290, Longwood, FL 32752-2290

Offer Code: 26-P1-X1-30-TX02

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone ( ) _____

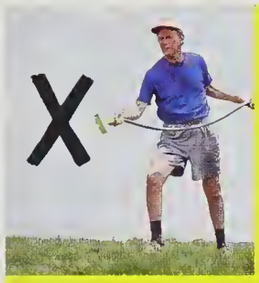
Work Phone ( ) _____

Email address: _____

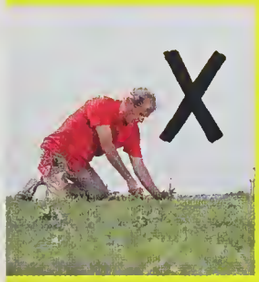
SW/SHIP-NC0204

For faster service – Call 1-800-275-8720 – Hurry, offer ends soon!

*Offer expires 3/15/04. Not valid on prior sales or in combination with any other offer. **Ask your Sears Associate for written limited warranty details. ***Energy savings may vary depending on your home and siding/windows selected. ‡Applies to ENERGY STAR® rated windows only ‡Subject to applicant creditworthiness. Licenses held by or on behalf of Sears Home Improvement Products: AL (6529); AZ (ROC117628); CA (721379); CO (98-0086); DE (1996101502); DC (25169XXX-50003007); FL (CBC039161); GA (G16437); IA (81659-03, 360-03, 5163); LA (84194); MD (46542-05, 75908); MI (2102131369); MN (BC-20090017); MS (R05222); NE (22785); NM (58598); NC (47330); OR (11302); SC (105836); TN (2319); VA (2705 035369); WA (SEARSHI011LA); WV (WV025882); WI (15151). The following licenses are held by or on behalf of Sears, Roebuck & Co.: AZ (ROC080918); CA (Gen. Bldg. Contr. 025455); FL (Gen. Contr. CBC015949); LA (Mech./Spec. Contr. 5526); MD (MHIC 32117); OR (Gen. Contr. 0001051); VA (Class A Contr. 2705057009); WA (Gen. Contr. SEARSR-372NT); WV (Gen. Bldg. Spec. WV008529). Some services performed by Sears associates. Other services and installation performed by Sears-Authorized licensed contractors; additional Sears license information available upon request.



Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower! Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...



...you can end such lawn drudgery – here's how!

Amazoy is the Trade Mark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia Grass.

Mow your zoysia lawn once a month – or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

7 Ways Your Zoysia Grass Lawn Saves You Time, Work, and Money!

1 CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn – nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed 2 times...When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

2 ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake – then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

3 NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in old lawn, new ground, whatever. Set 1" square plugs into holes in the soil 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Plugs spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, weeds included. Easy instructions with your order. If you can put a cork into a bottle, you can plug in Amazoy.

4 FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, AND BARE SPOTS

You can't beat Amazoy as the low cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, or to end erosion on slopes.

Endless Supply of Plug Transplants

Transplant plugs from established Amazoy as you desire – plugged area grows over to provide all the plugs you'll ever need.

FREE! Exclusive Step-on Plugger with orders of 625 plugs or more.

Starting your lawn is easy with this sturdy, 2-way plugger. Cuts away unwanted growth as it digs holes for plugs. Saves bending, time, work. Invaluable transplant tool.

© Zoysia Farm Nurseries 2004
3617 Old Taneytown Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787

5 IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, begins regaining its green color as temps. in the spring are consistently warm. Of course, this varies with climate.

6 NO NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Since zoysia lawns resist insects AND diseases, you avoid the risk of exposing your family or pets to weedkillers and pesticide poisons. Plug in Amazoy and save the money, avoid the risks!

Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Govt., released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

Thrives from part shade to full sun.

Every Plug GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR SOIL *No Ifs, Ands Or Buts!*

Read a guarantee no grass seed can match!

Won't Winter Kill. Amazoy has survived temperatures to 30° below zero!

Won't Heat Kill. When other grasses burn out in summer drought and heat, Amazoy remains luxuriously green.

Any plug failing to grow in 45 days will be replaced FREE! To insure maximum freshness and viability, plugs are shipped not cut all the way through. Before planting, finish the separation with shears or knife. Our guarantee and planting method are your assurance of lawn success backed by more than five decades of specialized lawn experience!

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at *earliest correct planting time in your area.*

NOT SHIPPED OUTSIDE USA, or into WA or OR.

7 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Amazoy lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and summer weeds from germinating!

VISIT US AT: www.zoysiafarms.com/mag.html

ORDER NOW! AND GET UP TO 400 PLUGS FREE!

TO: Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 330
General Offices and Store
3617 Old Taneytown Road
Taneytown, MD 21787

Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked:

☐ 50 PLUGS	☐ 100 PLUGS +10 FREE	☐ 100 PLUGS +20 FREE with Plugger	☐ 250 PLUGS +50 FREE with Plugger
$5.95 + $3.50 S&H	$8.95 + $4.35 S&H	$12.95 + $5.80 S&H	$19.95 + $7.65 S&H

☐ 625 PLUGS +125 FREE with FREE Plugger	☐ 1,000 PLUGS +200 FREE with FREE Plugger	SPECIAL OFFER! ☐ 2,000 PLUGS + 400 FREE with FREE Plugger
ONLY $31.95 + $11.85 S&H	ONLY $45.95 + $17.15 S&H	ONLY $74.95 + $23.15 S&H

☐ Additional Plugger $6.95

Write price of order here $_____.___

MD residents add 5% tax $_____.___

Shipping & handling (S&H) $_____.___

TOTAL $_____.___

I enclose $_____ ❑ Check ❑ MO

Charge credit card ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA

Acct. # _____

Expiration Date _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

New transformers and substation will help Brunswick EMC serve its growing membership

Motorists on Highway 17 from Leland to Shallotte in Brunswick County were surprised not long ago by a large convoy of small trucks and police cars escorting an oversized carrier delivering one of two new 125-megavolt-ampere (mva) transformers for a new Brunswick EMC substation.

The 205-foot-long carrier held a 100-ton transformer, suspended on a "floating platform" between two sets of wheeled mechanisms that are specially designed for transporting this type of load and maneuvering around corners. The impressive rig had a total of 74 wheels and is the only one of its kind in the southeastern U.S.

The transformer was built in Wisconsin and shipped by rail to Leland, where the nine-man crew from Turner Transfer of Greensboro loaded the transformer onto their rig. The Brunswick EMC bucket trucks in the convoy were ready to move overhead wires, but it proved unnecessary, although a detour through downtown Shallotte was required as there was not enough clearance at the Rte 130/Hwy17-Shallotte underpass.

This unit is the first of two 125-mva transformers ordered for the new Brunswick EMC transmission substation under construction on Old Shallotte Road in Grissettown. These transformers will take high-voltage electricity from the delivery transmission grid and convert it into lower voltage electricity to be delivered to BEMC's distribution substations, which then convey it to individual locations.

The Grissettown substation was conceived in the mid-1990s as part of the co-op's plan for meeting the growing demand for power throughout the BEMC service area. Land acquisition, permitting, environmental studies, engineering, selection of vendors for construction and materials, and site preparation are now complete and construction is underway. The target date for completion is the fall of 2004.

This new substation, identical in size to the Prospect substation in Supply, will increase BEMC's system capacity by more than 50 percent. It is positioned to provide additional capacity to handle summer peak demand from the Calabash and southern Brunswick County areas and eventually tie into Columbus County as well. The entire BEMC system will benefit from the increased capacity for handling peak demand as well as the ability to provide alternate routing paths in the event of an outage.

Brunswick EMC, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, is the third-largest electric cooperative in North Carolina, serving nearly 65,000 locations in Brunswick and Columbus counties plus parts of Bladen and Robeson counties.

This 74-wheel truck transported one of Brunswick EMC's new transformers to its substation in Grissettown.

Two appointed to state electrification authority

Edith C. Cox

Gov. Mike Easley has appointed James Ronnie Alderman of Clinton and Edith Cameron Cox of Cameron to the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority.

An agency within the Department of Commerce, the Rural Electrification Authority reviews all electric and telephone cooperative applications for federal funding and investigates member service issues. There are five members on the board, each serving a 4-year term. The governor appoints all members, as well as the administrator.

Alderman has been the director of protective services for Sampson Regional Medical Center since 1979. He is a board member for the Star Telephone Membership Corporation and a facility member for the National Fire Protection Association. Alderman received his associate's degree in academics from Wingate College in 1972, his associate's degree in criminal justice from Sampson Community College in 1981, and his bachelor's degree in political science from Fayetteville State University in 1983.

Cox is a board member at Central Electric Membership Corporation, Sanford. She worked in Harnett County public schools before retiring in 1993. She was a guidance counselor from 1986 to 1993 and was assistant principal from 1977 to 1986. Currently, Cox is involved with her church, where she serves as director of youth for the Christian Education Department of the Central North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She received her bachelor's degree and attended graduate school at N.C. Agricultural and Technological University.

Backyard bird count is Feb. 13-16

Bird enthusiasts are invited to take part Feb. 13-16 in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a project developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited store owners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the USDA. During the event, everyone who enjoys birds will be able to submit their observations through BirdSource http://www.birdsource.org. Participants will help conservationists, ornithologists and the rest of the world determine the status of bird populations continent-wide.

A new national study concludes that America's electricity sector must transform itself

A new study concludes that the electric utility industry in the U.S. has reached a strategic stalemate and must transform itself soon to avoid what could become an unstable situation for a nation wholly dependent on reliable electric power.

The study was conducted by the nonprofit Electric Power Research Institute, which works on behalf of the industry worldwide, including electric cooperatives. EPRI released its report, "Electricity Sector Framework for the Future," in August after a year-long study.

Forces combining to stymie the electricity sector of the economy, EPRI says, include "political distractions" over policy, a turmoil of confusing restructuring initiatives in some states, a counterproductive government regulation debate, an aged infrastructure, an inclination toward maintaining the status quo, and an under-informed consumer sector. Symptoms include blackouts, an uncertain power supply and an energy trading enterprise that has not engendered confidence yet. Yet those involved in the business of producing and delivering electric power all agree that they are ready, willing and able to begin the transformation.

EPRI points out that for most of its history, the electricity business and its government partners have been driven by objectives intended to lower the cost of the commodity. The goal of a relatively inexpensive, efficient and safe power supply was achieved by about 1970, the report says, and efforts since then to continue the tradition—including allowing an open market for wholesale power, as well as other restructuring or deregulation experiments—have not fully succeeded. Since 1992, when the wholesale energy market opened up, EPRI says "the institutional structure for the electricity sector has been dismantled, but it has not been replaced by an alternative structure with coherent institutions and rules." Investor-owned utilities now face inconsistent regulations, and consumer-owned utilities like cooperatives suffer the ripple effects, such as a reluctance to invest in fixing the aged regional transmission grid and in new technology.

A blend of market forces and even-handed regulation can solve the problems, EPRI says, and those involved agree that the role of government should be limited, noting that "leadership accountability for most of these actions rests with the electricity industry itself." A key is for consumers, businesses and government to perceive electricity as not just a commodity, but as the lifeblood of the nation's way of life.

The main elements of the transformation that EPRI says should take place during the next decade are:

- Stabilize electricity markets
- Provide for the public good
- Protect the environment
- Educate and empower the consumer
- Unleash innovation

Advanced technology will play a major role, the study says. This should include digital control of the transmission and distribution network, blending electricity and communication services for consumers, making the meter a "two-way energy/information portal," introducing "distributed energy resources" (small-scale energy production systems at the user end), and a stronger power generation system that includes coal refining.

Richard G. Biever

Noting that a failure to invest in the sector's infrastructure (mainly transmission and distribution facilities) actually costs consumers, EPRI says fixing the infrastructure could save consumers money now spent on maintaining what's here. Honest information programs will help consumers understand the need for "increasing the functionality and value of electricity rather than simply reducing its cost." One project would be to produce an independent evaluation that compares the benefits of transforming the industry to the costs of maintaining the status quo. The area that needs the most attention, EPRI says, is the transmission grid (the "first point of meltdown"), and that advanced technology and a nationally cohesive system are needed to fix it.

Investor-owned utilities, EPRI says, need a market that contains fewer risks and uncertainties. Regional differences can be accommodated in a comprehensive set of market rules, transmission should be operated independently, and energy trading practices should be standardized.

The report says the public should know that utilities are accountable, the fuel supply is diverse, the delivery system secure and the "obligation to serve" remains ironclad.

Also, all advances should be environmentally safe, and incentives should be in place to encourage development of environmentally-friendly technology.

The current debate between the roles of the state and federal government over deregulation or restructuring is "counterproductive," the report says. Government should allow utilities flexibility in the marketplace.

A new system is needed for designing rates, EPRI says, that permits equal allocation of risk and reward among consumers, investors and society in general.

Consumer confidence is at stake in the quest to transform the electricity sector, EPRI says. And the report concludes that virtually everyone involved in the sector, including ratepayers, is prepared to start the transformation.

The full report and background information are available at the EPRI Web site: www.epri.com

— Michael E.C. Gery

ON TOP of Mt. Pisgah

The adventures of Norman Harrill during his 45 years working atop Mt. Pisgah

Story and photos by Ken Thomas

People have always told stories about Mt. Pisgah, one of the tallest and roughest mountains in western North Carolina, but it's likely that no one has more stories about it than Norman Harrill. He worked 45 years up there, 6,089 feet above sea level, as an engineer maintaining the transmitter station for WLOS-TV until he retired in November. The transmitter building itself has been there since 1950. Today, it is home to communications facilities for several agencies, including NOAA weather radio, WKSF FM, WUNF-TV, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and emergency medical services.

Haywood EMC, the Touchstone Energy cooperative in this part of the state, has worked with Norman Harrill throughout his career on Mt. Pisgah to ensure reliable electric power to the important equipment up there.

One of the most vital pieces of equipment is the electric cable car that runs on a 3,200-foot rail track to transport Norman and others to and from the transmitter station. The mountainside grade at one point is at a 56-degree angle, difficult to hike even for a fit woodsman in good weather. The cable car runs on an iron track and crossties that lie in the same right of way as Haywood EMC's poles and power lines. Two cable cars, one enclosed for inclement weather and one open to ride in good weather, are joined together by a ¾-inch diameter, 3,200-foot-long steel cable. An electric motor pulls one car up the mountain, while the other descends. The track is split at mid-point so the cars can pass each other. You can see amazing mountain views as you ride the car. Also, it's not uncommon to see snakes sunning on the granite rocks under the track or fresh bear claw and teeth marks on the wooden power poles as you ride along.

Estes Wyatt, father of Haywood EMC lineman Ray Wyatt, helped construct the transmitter building on Mt. Pisgah and stayed on with WLOS several years afterwards. During construction the first winter, Estes and his crew stayed in tents on the mountain top. They also helped to construct the railroad track. Once in the late 1950s, not long after Norman began working there, a winter storm left snow so deep that the cable car could not run. Norman and Estes found themselves stranded on the mountain top. As they began running out of food, they called the Civil Air Patrol who then air-dropped food for them. However, the snow was so deep and the mountain so steep, Norman and Estes couldn't locate the food. Five days later—with just half of a grapefruit for each remaining in their food supply—they were able to get the cable car running again. But they didn't find the Civil Air Patrol food until the following spring.

Mt. Pisgah attracts a lot of lightning: it's high and holds a 350-foot transmitter tower at its peak, not to mention the 3,200 feet of iron rail and the power line running parallel to the track. On a Tuesday morning in April 1972, Norman and a workmate, Richard Hartman, waited below until lightning storms had passed before getting on the cable car. When it seemed the storms had passed, Norman phoned Bill Jenkins, who was working at the tower, to pull them up. Norman asked, "How's the weather?" and that's the last thing he remembered until the following Saturday afternoon. Lightning had jumped the air gap from the intercom system and struck Norman in the center of the forehead, leaving a burn mark around his right eye and stopping his watch at 8:35 a.m. At first, Richard couldn't find Norman, because Norman had been thrown nearly 25 feet into a rock pile. The lightning force had not only thrown Norman, but also yanked a rock out of the ground, leaving a crater four feet wide and three feet deep. Mud and debris were everywhere. Richard rushed Norman to the hospital where it was confirmed that he lost his sight, his memory, both thumbnails, and had burn marks on the bottom of his right foot.

Once released from the hospital, Norman was cared for at home by his wife, sister and brother-in-law who are all nurses. He was out of work for nearly a year. In the beginning, his wife, Betty, would change his bedding several times a day because of the embedded sand and grit working their way out of Norman's skin. "It felt like I was laying on cracker crumbs," Norman says today. His eyesight came and went to the point that he completely lost it three times prior to its being fully restored. Doctors and others have told Norman that by all rights he shouldn't be alive. Norman feels the only reason his life was spared is because the Lord had more for him to do.

Ken Thomas

Norman Harrill and Haywood Electric had a close working relationship for 45 years, ensuring that the critical communication equipment remains in operation.

Always prepared

Norman Glenn Harrill grew up on a 500-acre farm in Rutherford County. He attended N.C. State University and served three years active duty with the 101st Airborne. At 12, he joined the Boy Scouts of America, but six months later his troop dissolved for lack of a scout leader. He joined the Boy Scouts again in 1965, this time as a scout leader, which he has continued for 38 years "so boys won't suffer the same experience I did." Norman has earned several awards in his tenure with the Boy Scouts, including the Silver Beaver, the highest award for volunteers, as well as the National Eagle Scout award, Scouter's Key, Scout Master's Key, Cub Master's Key, Vigil Member Order of the Arrow, Order of the Arrow Founder's Award, and his wood badge. His training in safety, first aid and outdoor activities has come in handy on Mt. Pisgah.

In 1978, WLOS-TV placed a 500-kilowatt generator for emergency back-up power at the transmitter building. They delivered it by helicopter.

Once in 1960, a winter storm left so much snow and ice that it knocked out the power to the transmitter and the cable cars wouldn't work. Norman arranged a ride to the Blue Ridge Parkway in order to climb up the 1.5-mile trail there that leads to the tower. The driver was Haywood EMC senior lineman Willard Gaddis Sr., who figured he'd repair whatever was wrong while he was up there. Loading themselves with anything they thought might be needed to repair the power line, they began their trek through the bitter cold, snow-packed forest. Approaching the building, they noticed that the last span of the overhead power line was on the ground. Willard went straight to work repairing the line. By the time it was repaired, Norman said, "Gaddis came in and the tips of all his fingers were frost bit." Norman applied first aid for frostbite that he learned in Boy Scouts, then got the cable car running and rode with Willard to the bottom of the mountain for medical assistance.

Another day, blustery, 10-degree weather and blowing snow prevented the cable car from running on its tracks. Norman got a ride to the Parkway, this time from Chuck Fairbanks, who also worked at the transmitter in those days. Ice had brought down trees across the trail, and while crossing a felled tree, Norman's foot slipped on ice. He found out later that he had torn cartilage and a ligament in his left leg. But at the time, he was alone and had difficulty moving. As cold as it was, he found himself sweating from his hike and was concerned about hypothermia and shock. Using his radio, he called John Speed, who was working in the WLOS control room in Asheville. Realizing the rescue squad would not be able to reach Norman, John stayed on the radio with him to keep him from going into shock. Meanwhile, as painful as it was, Norman put his Boy Scout training in action by wrapping his insulated vest around his leg and tying it with a piece of rope he always carried. Using his knife, he cut a broken limb from a nearby downed tree and made himself a crutch. While staying in radio contact with John Speed, Norman was able to make it to the top of Mt. Pisgah and into the transmitter building. Once inside, he called Ken Woodard, another WLOS employee who lived just 2.5 miles away on Chinquipin. By the time Ken made it to the cable car track, Norman had it operational again and met Ken at the bottom. Ken drove Norman to the emergency room where they had to cut his pants off because his leg was so swollen. X-rays and an MRI revealed damage that required arthroscopic surgery and weeks of therapy.

Weather is not the only hazard affecting the sensitive wiring and electronics at the Mt. Pisgah transmitter. Mice can do some damage as well, so Norman has always kept cats living in the building. Nosey and Tippy are the current residents. They live inside, because they probably would not stand much chance against the bobcats, coyotes, red tail hawks and golden eagles who also live on the mountain.

Continued on p. 12

Ken Thomas

Looking up the electric cable car track that runs 3,200 feet taking people to and from the station.

Continued from p. 11

Linemen to the rescue

Norman says that Haywood EMC has always been "Johnny-on-the-spot" when he's called the co-op for help. If linemen expected difficulty in reaching the mountain to make a repair, Haywood EMC would notify Norman so he could plan fuel consumption for the 500-kilowatt Caterpillar generator he used for back-up power.

Hurricane Opal hit western North Carolina in 1995, causing some of the worst damage in the history of Haywood EMC. Thousands of cooperative members were without power for weeks as neighboring co-ops and contractors rallied in an effort to help restore power as safely and quickly as possible. Norman called on a Sunday morning during the early stages of the storm to report the transmitter tower out of power. When he learned how many homes were without power, Norman advised the co-op to restore other members first, because he had about a week's supply of fuel for the generator. By Friday, Norman called the co-op to say he was down to about eight more hours of fuel. To prevent interruption in the crucial communications systems that rely on the Mt. Pisgah transmitter, Haywood EMC sent four crews in four-wheel-drive vehicles to the mountain and had power restored by 6 p.m.

Norman also recalls a time, when ice on the track was too thick for running the cable car, and Ray Wyatt and two other Haywood EMC linemen used picks to pull themselves up the mountain to replace bad fuses in a transformer bank on top.

And the co-op's Steve Burchfield remembers helping Norman restore power on a rainy day when the wind blew so hard that the rain came horizontally and blistered their bare skin when it hit.

"I have nothing but praise for Haywood EMC and their employees," Norman says.

The co-op's men have had their own adventures on Mt. Pisgah.

In February 1981, Scott Guge and Steve Rogers were up there splicing together three power lines that had been torn down by a fallen tree. They had followed all safety rules, with grounds on both sides of their work. A bolt of lightning hit the transmitter tower, jumped over to the power line and still had enough fault current to bypass Scott's and Steve's grounds. It shocked Scott just as he was splicing the lines. Steve was in a bucket truck preparing for Scott to pull the line up to him. Scott remembers that although the shock lasted just seconds, "I felt like I was being beat to death all over my body for thirty minutes." He was rushed to the hospital and released the same day. "They gave me a shot of something that hurt worse than the lightning," he says. The next day, his muscles aching, Scott came to work. That's what linemen and Timex watches have in common: they take a licking and keep on ticking. What keeps linemen ticking is the challenge of the work and knowing they are making life better for others.

WLOS-TV has continually upgraded the equipment and facilities on the mountain, including the recent replacement of the 500-kw generator with a new 750-kw one that was placed at the bottom of the cable car track. State-of-the-art, solid-state electronics, as well as new communications equipment and wiring, have called for a larger electrical service, so last November, Haywood EMC increased transformer capacity to 750,000 volt-amps from 300,000. In addition, the co-op increased voltage to 277/480 volts from 120/208.

Ken Thomas

The cats Nosey and Tippy also worked with Norman on top of the mountain, helping to keep mice away from the equipment.

Norman and his wife Betty live in Asheville and look forward to their retirement together. Betty is a retired nurse. They have three children. Donna Bussard, a manager for Hickory Farms, lives in Weaverville. Stephanie Harrill is a school administrator in Las Vegas, Nevada. And Norman Glenn Harrill Jr. is a purchasing manager who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Norman and Betty are looking forward to more time with their children and eight grandchildren. Norman plans to continue as a Boy Scout leader, as well as teaching electronics and math part-time at Asheville-Buncombe Tech and his hobbies of beekeeping, exploring and amateur radio. Norman is one of only 14 people in the nation commissioned to administer the FCC license exam.

Haywood EMC will miss Norman Harrill and his wisdom, professionalism, and the passion he brought to his work with WLOS-TV. We welcome and congratulate Ralph Rodriguez, who will succeed him.

Ken Thomas is manager of marketing and communications at Haywood EMC and a former lineman with the cooperative.

Deck and Patio Owners:

LIMITED WARRANTY TO CONSUMERS
Good Housekeeping
Promises
REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE
Opens and closes with ease in 30 seconds!

Outsmart the Weather!

With a new SunSetter® XT Retractable Awning, you can choose full sun or total protection from rain or sun...

Now get three times the use of your deck with the adjustable, affordable SunSetter® Awning. It makes your deck or patio like an additional room on your house! Lets you enjoy your deck or patio rain or shine. Protects your family, guests and patio furniture from rain, harsh sun and harmful UV rays far better than a tippy patio umbrella. Adds to the beauty and value of your home. Expertly crafted in America for years of maintenance-free enjoyment.

- ***New and improved for 2004!***
- **Save with factory-direct pricing**
- **Superb quality – 5 year warranty**
- **100% waterproof fabric**
- **Installs over any kind of siding**
- **Retracts flat against the house**
- **No need to take it down in winter**

FREE VIDEO!

and Complete Information

90-Day No-Risk Home Trial

Call Toll Free: 1-800-876-8060

24 hours a day/7 days a week Ext. 2716

Fax 781-321-8650. Or mail this coupon today.

☑ **YES**, please rush me my FREE video, plus FREE information on SunSetter® Awnings, including your new Model XT's, factory-direct pricing and special limited-time savings.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

E-Mail _____

(IMPORTANT: Be sure to give us your email address to receive our best deals!)

SunSetter® Products, Dept. 2716, 184 Charles Street, Malden, MA 02148

© 2004 SunSetter® Products

SunSetter®
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

MOTORIZED MODEL NOW AVAILABLE!

The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony 1862-1867

An exhibit at Roanoke Island Festival Park depicts a scene inside of a Freedmen's Colony school.

An experimental, planned community for freed slaves was an early avenue on the network to freedom

By Michael E.C. Gery

Most of us know about the English attempts in the 1580s to establish a permanent settlement on Roanoke Island. The project ended when some 112 men, women and children failed to secure a foothold on the island and by 1590 had vanished. It has long been known as the "lost colony."

Fewer of us know much about another, more successful attempt to establish a permanent colony on Roanoke Island, not far from the "lost colony" site, between 1862 and 1867. At its most robust, by the end of 1863, the Freedmen's Colony on Roanoke Island contained about 3,000 residents, most of whom had been slaves three years earlier in the surrounding mainland of northeastern North Carolina. It was the largest community ever on the Outer Banks, on an island that beforehand was populated by about 600 people (two-thirds white, and one-third black, including some 170 slaves). The Freedmen's Colony, under supervision of the U.S. military, had established its own schools, churches, craft business and a sawmill, and had built about 600 houses and gardens. And it gave people who formerly had been denied any civil rights, a taste of citizenship, family life and hope.

"SAFE HAVEN"

As the Civil War became inevitable, the Confederate military put slaves and free blacks to work building fortifications and protecting ports and waterways along the Southern coast. Many of the coastal area slaves were skilled as boatmen, fishermen, builders and artisans by that time. In the war's early stages, Union forces systematically seized Confederate coastal strongholds and in August 1861 occupied Hatteras Island on the Outer Banks with very little resistance. In her thorough history of the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony, Patricia C. Click writes that two of the slaves, Ben Tillett and Thomas Robinson, who had helped build forts on Roanoke Island then escaped to Hatteras when it fell into Union hands, assisted Union commanders in their invasion of nearby Roanoke Island, a crucial gateway for shipping and naval fleets. In February 1862, the Union Army under Gen. Ambrose Burnside defeated the Confederate forces on Roanoke Island and immediately occupied their forts and set up camp.

It wasn't long after the fall of Roanoke Island that word spread among mainland slaves that "if you can cross the creek to Roanoke Island, you will find safe haven." And so they did. A month after the Union occupation, the army had organized a system for handling the fugitive slaves, who had streamed onto the island and took up residence in the abandoned Confederate barracks and outbuildings. Union leaders considered them "contraband" of war, and felt no obligation to return them to their former owners. In similar situations months earlier in South Carolina, the Union forces simply seized plantations where they could harbor slaves and give them jobs. Roanoke Island, however, as the first contraband camp of former slaves in North Carolina, was organized as a "colony" and intended to become a permanent, self-sufficient community. The commander on the island, Col. Rush Hawkins, aimed to keep the contraband families together, to employ the adults who could work and pay them wages and rations. Gen. Burnside soon turned over the supervision of blacks in eastern North Carolina to U.S. government authorities.

Once Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves freed in January 1863, their movement to sanctuaries

such as Roanoke Island intensified. In April, an Army chaplain from Massachusetts, the Rev. Horace James, who earlier had served with the regiment that seized Roanoke Island, was named "Superintendent of All Blacks in North Carolina" and was ordered to organize "a colony of Negroes" on the island. Simultaneously, the Union Army began recruiting and enlisting newly freed black men and formed the first company of the North Carolina Colored Volunteers.

As the younger men left with the army, the Roanoke Island camp evolved into a sanctuary for their families. The local commanding officer at the time, Brig. Gen. Edward A. Wild, ordered the occupation of abandoned and undeveloped land in the vicinity of the military facilities as the site of an ambitious, planned colony. Horace James in early 1864 submitted a plan that showed 26 streets crossed by three "avenues" 50 feet wide. Families were assigned lots of about an acre, and they began building houses and gardens. They organized churches and schools. Plans grew to include a sawmill, grist mill, industrial school and storehouse. The colonists engaged in fishing, boat-building, basket-making, shoe-making and tending vineyards. Historian Patricia Click quotes from Horace James' annual report for 1864, in which he wrote that the island could become "the abode of a prosperous and virtuous people, of varying blood, but one of destiny, differing it may be, in social position, but equal before the law, a happy commonwealth."

Northern Christian missionaries and anti-slavery advocates became involved in the development of new black communities soon after the Emancipation Proclamation. Horace James was well connected to the New England missionary societies and welcomed help from those willing to serve as teachers on Roanoke Island. The first to arrive in the fall of 1863 was his cousin, Elizabeth James. Eventually, seven teachers worked there. Schools were primitive, but effective, given that few of the colonists could read or write. Rev. James housed some of the teachers in a house known as Sunnyside, even though island native Isaac Meekins protested the absconding of his mother's house. More than teaching, the missionaries found themselves involved in arduous duties intended simply to keep the colony relatively healthy and afloat.

The "First Light to Freedom" monument at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site includes this rendering of slaves reaching the safe haven of Roanoke Island.

THE DREAM FADES

When the Confederates in the spring of 1864 managed to recapture Plymouth nearby along the Roanoke River, a new influx of freed blacks arrived on Roanoke Island. The colony's population swelled to more than 3,500 people, and the lack of sufficient housing and sanitary conditions for them all began a downward slide from which the Freedmen's Colony was unable to recover.

Relations between the occupying military forces and the freed families were always strained at best. The relationship, as Click points out, perpetuated the colonists' dependency on the military rather than encouraged their self-reliance. As the war dragged on, the island troops began taking advantage of the colonists, even apprehending their rations. The blacks in the volunteer troops complained that not only were they not paid often, if at all, but their families on the island had begun suffering as well. The superintendent in charge of the colony in 1865 turned out to be corrupt and was discharged. Meanwhile, the fishing and grape seasons had not fared well for the islanders, making them even needier.

In April of 1865, Horace James appealed personally and unsuccessfully to President Andrew Johnson to address the mistreatment and injustices prevalent among the freedmen's camps throughout the South. About a month later, President Johnson issued his Amnesty Proclamation that ordered all property seized by the Union forces during the war be returned to owners who could prove title to it. That forecast the end of the Roanoke Island colony and others following its model. While James, his supporters and the freed people protested, claiming they had earned the right to at least rent property that they had improved—the Freedmen's Colony in the end occupied some 1,100 acres—the government was determined to return the property to its owners and to redirect the Roanoke Island colonists to new lives on their own on the mainland. Many returned to regions they had escaped as the war broke out and found work as farmers, tradespeople and sharecroppers. Others stayed to work on Roanoke Island and Hatteras communities.

In 1868, Patricia Click reports, 11 former colonists bought 200 acres from local families on the west side of Roanoke Island near where the colony had been. In 1870, the census counted 300 blacks in 60 households. One was Richard Etheridge, a former colonist who had joined the Union's Colored Troops, had seen battle and later joined the famous Buffalo Soldiers in military service on America's western frontier. He was one who had petitioned the government to improve treatment of the Roanoke Island families of soldiers fighting for its cause. In 1885, Etheridge became the first African American commander of a U.S. Lifesaving Station, the Pea Island, N.C. station. In 1996, after a century of neglect, his 1895 crew was awarded the service's highest medal for heroism in rescuing members of the ship E.S. Newman during a fierce hurricane. The ceremony took place next to the Etheridge family cemetery plot on Roanoke Island, a small patch of ground near today's Dare County Airport and the North Carolina Aquarium, which now occupy the land where the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony lived. Despite archaeological research conducted on the north end of the island in the 1980s and early 1990s, there is no trace remaining of the colony itself.

NATIONAL NETWORK TO FREEDOM

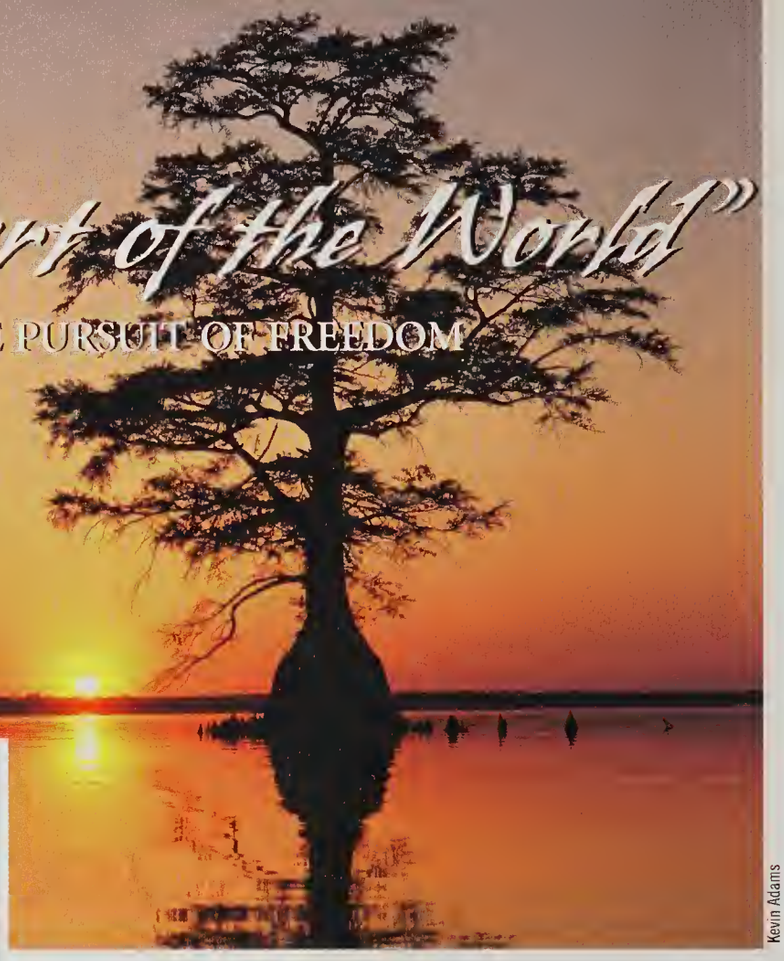
The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony is recognized as a site on the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. A marker at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site was erected in 2001 and dedicated at a ceremony attended by descendants of the Freedmen's Colony. There also is a path through the woods north of Fort Raleigh that leads visitors to a commemorative park along Croatan Sound. During the weekend of Feb. 14-15, Roanoke Island Festival Park will honor the colony during its Civil War remembrance activities. For more information, call (252) 475-1506. Or visit www.roanokeisland.com

Resources:
"Time Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony, 1862-1867," by Patricia C. Click, University of North Carolina Press, 2001.
"Roanoke Island: The Forgotten Colony," by Arvilla Tillett Bowser and Lindsay Bowser, Maximilian Press Publishers, 2002.
"The Outer Banks of North Carolina," by David Stick, University of North Carolina Press, 1958.
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Manteo, N.C.
Roanoke Island Festival Park, Manteo, N.C.

"This Obscure Part of the World"

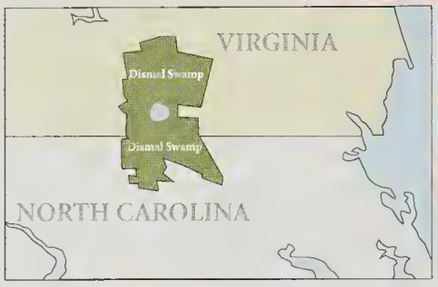
IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS ROLE IN THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM

The Great Dismal Swamp is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom



Kevin Adams

The Great Dismal Swamp, which straddles the border between northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia, will be recognized for its role in the Underground Railroad path to freedom for slaves prior to the Civil War.



The National Park Service on Feb. 13 will formally announce the designation of three sites of the Great Dismal as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The event will take place in the Chesapeake Convention Center in Chesapeake, Va.

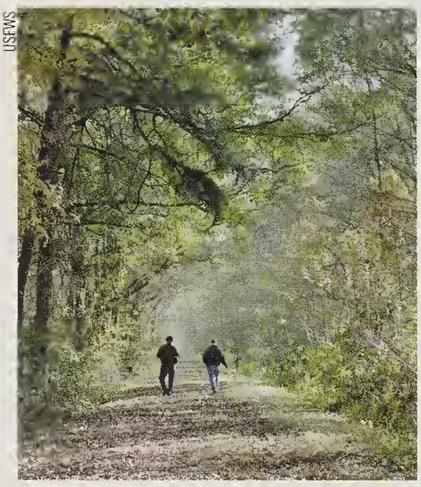
The sites include:

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 111,000 acres located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

Dismal Swamp Canal, the 22-mile-long waterway that forms the eastern border of the refuge and serves as part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

North Carolina's Dismal Swamp State Park, located in Camden County, N.C.

Following the ceremony, The Sweetest Sound, an African-American historical musical group, will perform.



USFWS

Trail walk in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The name "Great Dismal Swamp" originated in the 18th century for the swampy area of land that lies between the Albemarle Sound in northeastern North Carolina and the James River in southeastern Virginia. In 1728, William Byrd surveyed the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina, carrying it through the Great Dismal Swamp. At that time, he described the swamp and his work to survey the line through it with the following passage:

This dreadful swamp was ever judgd impassable, 'til the line divideing Virginia from North Carolina was carryd through it in the year 1728, by the order of his late majesty. Nor would it have been practicable then, but by the benefit of an exceeding dry season, as well as the invincible vigor and industry of those that undertook it. Some of the neighbors have lost themselves here for some days, but never had either the courage or curiosity to advance very far ... It is certain many Slaves shelter themselves in this Obscure Part of the World, nor will any of their righteous Neighbors discover them.

Beginning in the 17th century, the Great Dismal Swamp and the Dismal Swamp Canal served as a refuge and route to freedom for thousands of enslaved AfricanAmericans. For some, the swamp offered a means to purchase their freedom, through work on the canal and in cedar and cypress timber production. Others found refuge deep within the swamp, living off the land and what they could steal. These "outlyers" established "maroon" communities on the higher ground of the swamp. Still others used the swamp as a stopping point to get to Norfolk or Portsmouth, Va., or to the Albemarle Sound and Elizabeth City, N.C., where they could secure passage on a ship traveling north. The swamp provided the means freedom that so many sought. During the Civil War, Union regiments of the U. S. Colored Troops, under Brig. Gen. Augustus Wild, marched down the canal bank from Deep Creek, Va., to northeastern North Carolina to liberate and recruit enslaved AfricanAmericans.

The Network to Freedom program, established through federal legislation in 1998, was created to extol the historical significance of the Underground Railroad in the eradication of slavery and the evolution of the national civil rights movement. The program is a network of 149 sites, programs, and facilities, representing 26 states and Washington. Administered by the National Park Service, the program provides technical assistance to organizations that are attempting to identify, document, preserve and interpret sites, and to approximate travel routes and landscapes related to the Underground Railroad.

Supporters within the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Elizabeth City State University worked with others to secure the swamp's inclusion in the network. The organizations researched and documented examples of the swamp's ties to freedom seekers. Wanda McLean, a staff member at ECSU, and Julie Rowand, Visitor Services Specialist at the Refuge, were instrumental in the application process.

AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE

AFFORDABLE LIFE INSURANCE

The Best Idea For ... Personal Insurance - Business Insurance - Mortgage Protection

15 & 10 Year Level Term Rates Guaranteed up to age 80

NON-TOBACCO RATES

MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	20-25	Call for more information		12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	26			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	27			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	28			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	29			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	30			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	31			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	32			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	33			12.43	11.38	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	34			12.43	11.46	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	35			12.43	11.64	14.88	13.56	24.50	21.88
	36			12.78	11.99	15.53	14.22	25.81	23.19
	37			13.21	12.51	16.41	15.31	27.56	25.38
	38			13.56	13.04	17.06	16.41	28.88	27.56
	39			14.09	13.74	17.94	17.50	30.63	29.75
	40			14.61	14.35	19.03	18.81	32.81	32.38
	41			15.66	14.96	20.78	19.91	36.31	34.56
	42			16.98	15.66	22.97	21.22	40.69	37.19
	43			18.11	16.10	25.38	22.09	45.50	38.94
	44			19.51	16.71	27.78	23.41	50.31	41.56
	45			21.18	17.59	30.63	24.94	56.00	44.63
	46			22.49	18.20	33.03	26.03	60.81	46.81
	47			24.33	19.08	36.53	27.56	67.81	49.88
	48			26.16	20.04	39.81	29.31	74.38	53.38
	49			28.18	20.83	43.75	30.84	82.25	56.44
	50			30.36	21.96	47.91	33.03	90.56	60.81
	51			32.64	23.19	51.84	35.22	98.44	65.19
	52			35.35	24.59	56.88	37.84	108.50	70.44

MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	53	Other amounts also available		38.06	26.16	61.91	40.69	118.56	76.13
	54			40.86	27.65	67.38	43.31	129.50	81.38
	55			44.36	29.58	73.72	46.81	142.19	88.38
	56			50.31	32.73	84.66	51.84	164.06	98.44
	57			56.96	35.96	96.91	57.31	188.56	109.38
	58			64.14	39.64	110.03	63.00	214.81	120.75
	59			71.23	43.31	123.16	69.13	241.06	133.00
	60			80.15	47.86	139.56	76.34	273.88	147.44
10 Year Term	61			53.99	37.36	96.91	60.59	188.56	115.94
	62			59.50	40.69	108.06	66.50	210.88	127.75
	63			65.01	44.01	119.00	72.19	232.75	139.13
	64			70.53	47.34	129.94	78.09	254.63	150.94
	65			77.44	51.63	143.72	85.53	282.19	165.81
	66			85.14	55.30	158.81	91.44	312.38	177.63
	67			95.46	58.98	179.16	99.53	353.06	193.81
	68			105.79	63.79	199.72	107.41	394.19	209.56
	69			116.11	68.43	220.06	115.50	434.88	225.75
	70			128.98	73.85	245.44	125.56	485.63	245.88
	71			147.79	87.59	283.50	152.69	561.75	300.13
	72			172.81	106.14	334.03	188.78	662.81	372.31
	73			197.84	124.69	384.78	224.88	764.31	444.50
	74			222.86	143.15	435.31	261.19	865.38	517.13
	75			254.19	166.25	498.75	306.25	992.25	607.25
	76			282.89	187.25	556.72	347.38	1108.19	689.50
	77			321.21	215.34	634.16	402.06	1263.06	798.88
	78			359.54	243.43	711.38	456.97	1417.50	908.69
	79			397.86	271.60	788.81	511.88	1572.38	1018.50
	80			442.84	301.44	885.72	580.56	1766.19	1155.88

Premiums illustrated represent ages 61-80 for 10 year level term and ages 20-60 for 15 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 10 and 15 years (not all forms available in all states). $100,000 rates are LTG Ultra-C, (policy form no. LTG-C01 AG Preferred Nontobacco). $250,000 - $500,000 rates are LTG Ultra (policy form no. LTG 2000AG Preferred Nontobacco). It is issued by American General Life Insurance Company, Houston, TX. Medical examination required. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Premiums for other rate classes, age and payment plans are available upon request. Death benefit remains level and is payable in lump sum, or installments, if so elected. The insurance company may contest the policy for two years from date of policy issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit payable from any cause, except suicide within first two policy years. In the event of suicide in the first two years, policy benefit is limited to return of premium paid. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES. American General Life Insurance Company is a member of the American International Group, Inc. The underwriting risks, financial obligations and support functions associated with the products issued by American General Life Insurance Company are solely its responsibility. American General Life is responsible for its own individual financial condition and contractual obligations.

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY FOR QUICK RESPONSE

For More Information Call:
1-800-565-4165

For Priority Service - FAX:
(708) 445-0420

Or clip and mail the Application Request Form in an envelope to:

Jim Olson
National Processing Center
P.O. Box 5079
River Forest, IL 60305

Great Tobacco Rates Also Available!

Application Request Form

The information you provide will be kept in strict confidence.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

HOME PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

BENEFICIARY _____ AGE _____

The best time to call me is:

❑ Morning ❑ Afternoon ❑ Evening (❑ Home ❑ Work)

I wish to pay my premiums: ❑ Annually ❑ Semi-Annually ❑ Monthly Bank Draft

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUESTED FOR:

NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

Comments: _____

❑ I wish to cover my children

I am also interested in: ❑ 15 year term ❑ 20 year term ❑ 30 year term

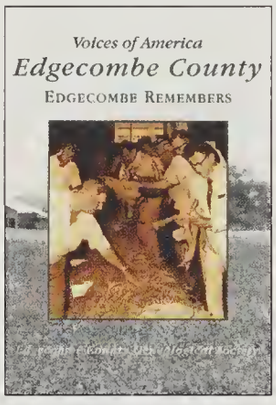
MS1-B083-Ultra-C/Ultra LTG 15,10

Edgecombe County Voices

Tobacco farming: a big part of Edgecombe County history.

There never seems to be a short supply of celebrity news, but the chronicling of everyday people can get short shrift. The little details fade and then vanish with time: what "average" folks eat, drink and wear daily, how they celebrate and mourn.

Drawing their stories out is one way to preserve the past. The recently published book, "Edgecombe County: Edgecombe Remembers," features the oral histories of farmers, teachers, mill workers, nurses, soldiers and other real people who share their recollections of an agrarian society of yesteryear. Members of the Edgecombe County Genealogical Society had been compiling residents' stories for years and decided to group 15 for a fundraiser. "There is a common thread among all of the people in that all of them grew up the same way," says Betty Reason, a Pitt & Greene EMC member and one of the genealogical society members who worked on the book. "They all came from the same type of background."

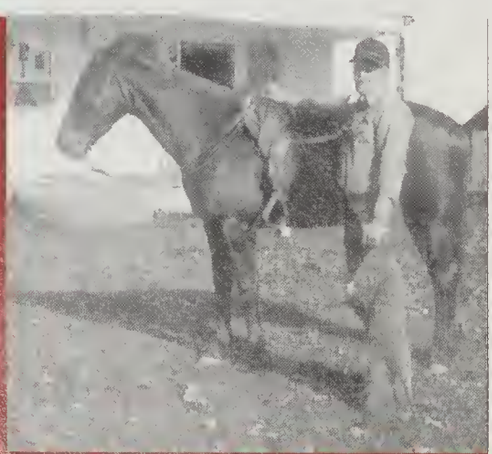


The book is divided into five chapters: Farmers, Homemakers, Professionals, Veterans and Tarboreans (people who live in Tarboro, the Edgecombe County seat). Residents explore such engaging topics as family life, race relations, farming, marriage, food, rural medicine, holiday rituals and education. One of the best things about the book, says Reason, is what it offers kids. She says, "It's a window into another time, a way of looking back and knowing the values and things that they treasured in that time."

—Karen House

Ledger Clark Harrell, who was born in 1927 and reared in Macclesfield, is one of the farmers interviewed. Harrell, who notes that "there is very little swapping labor anymore," recalls a different era:

"Back then, everybody worked together especially on the same farm. If there was two or three families, they would start housing tobacco and one family would put in on a certain day and everybody would come and help. Then the next family would put in on another day and everybody came to help them."



Ledger Clark Harrell, fox hunter.

George Roland Gammon Jr., also a farmer, was born in 1917 in the Draughan area and died in 1994. He discusses peanut farming:

"Now, the human hand doesn't touch peanuts. In other words,[nowadays] they are planted and they are sprayed with weed killers and with insecticides. When they mature they are plowed up; then they are turned up to the sun for a few days. They are then combined and then they are artificially dried in these trailers. And when you unload a trailer you unload them at the market. So that saves, I'm going to say, 80 to 90 percent of the labor."

Gammon also recalls some of the fun as a kid working around tobacco:

"In those early days everything was done by hand. Tobacco, we would have numbers of people prime tobacco on foot

George R. Gammon, woodworker.

and truck it to the tobacco barn. And that was always a good job for us boys, to drive a tobacco truck. Kids loved to drive tobacco trucks. It was a good job that everybody envied. I think the reason was because kids six or seven years old had never been big enough to drive a mule or a horse and driving a tobacco truck was something they could do. That was quite a pleasure!"

In the "Homemakers" chapter, **Alberta Singletary Dail Best**, the oldest of 13 children, recalls "life in the rough":

"We had a well with water. We drawed up water at night and put it in a bucket out on the porch at night to drink. Everybody drinked out of the same dipper. One of the dippers was a coconut hull and the other was a tin dipper and I reckon it cost ten cents, if we had ten cents to pay for it."

Best, who was born in 1900 and died in 1998, describes lean but joyful holidays:

"At Christmas time, maybe we'd get a present that cost a dollar, a little old mouse running up and down a string or something like that, and we were as happy as we could be. The boys would get a fruit jar lid and nail it to a tobacco stick and roll it all day long chasing each other, having a good time."

Bessie Duke, a Whitakers resident, was born in 1906. She remembers working in tobacco five days a week at $3 a day:

"And I used to chop cotton for forty cents and pick cotton for twenty-five cents a hundred pounds. That won't nothing! But when you think about it, we would buy a cola for a nickel and go to the show and eat a hotdog and drink for fifty cents or less."

Beadie Webb, a nursing attendant from Macclesfield, was born in 1907 and died in March 2000, reminisces about old-time mischief:

"My two older brothers were always in to something. I remember they tied two cats' tails together and hung them on the clothes line to see them fight, and if they didn't get a whipping! Mama whipped them boys good fashion."

In the "Professionals" chapter, **Lee Rawlings Hall**, a retired Edgecombe County superintendent born in 1929, talks about how transportation has changed:

...We had a car in Whittey Field, but in the wintertime, the roads were so bad the car couldn't go out. On Saturday mornings, we would hook the mules up to a double-single tree and tie that to the front of the car. Someone would ride or lead the mules, and they would literally drag the car out to the highway."

Hall was working in the schools during the South's integration and remembers a fearful, violent time:

"One example is the Bullock School over in what is referred to as the West Edgecombe area of Edgecombe County. On the Friday night before we were supposed to open school on Monday, the first day of integration, dynamite was carried up on the water tank and a hole was blown in it large enough you could climb right through it. Dynamite also was put on one side of one of the buildings, which blew a big hole there. It blew all the windows out of the building."

Cecil Earl Long, born in 1930, was a principal and assistant superintendent in Edgecombe County. Long recalls various health remedies such as castor oil:

"Turpentine was swallowed in black coffee, too. We took Carter liver pills, but I don't know why; Mama told me to take them. . . . Jesse Martin, a neighbor, could talk the fire out of a burn. My sister, Mamie Clide, spilled hot coffee on me. Papa took me to the tobacco barn where Jesse Martin met us and talked the fire out, and, sure enough, the wound healed."

Joe W. Dickens Jr., a funeral director who was born in 1953 and grew up in the Speed area, relates how perceptions about death have changed:

"Most children are fascinated about the hearse. It's not something they see everyday. When I first started in funeral service, little kids were afraid of the hearse. They didn't want to come near it because they saw it as a death vehicle. Now kids want to know can they ride, can they get inside, can they see inside. There is no fear of the hearse anymore. It's just another pretty, large, shiny vehicle."

Melton (Mel) M. Caison, also a funeral director, was born in 1937. Caison, who grew up in Roseborough, relates a humorous anecdote that shows how little human nature has really changed:

"When I was serving my apprenticeship in Fayetteville, there was a real large lady who was a minister. Her husband was real small. She was almost twice the size he was in height and weight, too. The two used to sing together in funeral services. She played the accordion. They had a service where her husband was a pallbearer. They were down in the part of Cumberland County where it was a real sandy area . . . Well, her husband wasn't paying attention and he stepped on the sand. His foot sort of went into the grave. He didn't go in the grave, but his leg did. 'Ohhh!' his wife started hollering. 'Ohhh Heath!' The accordion was loosely hooked and every time she moved, it made a walking sound. The family of the deceased got tickled at her and had to go behind some bushes, but we finally got it straightened up."

"Edgecombe County: Edgecombe Remembers" is part of the Voices of America series and was published in 2002 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C. Softcover, 128 pages, black and white photographs. $19.99. You can purchase the book from the publisher by calling (888) 313-2665 or by visiting *www.arcadiapublishing.com*. You can also buy it directly from the Edgecombe County Genealogical Society. Call (252) 823-1141 and ask for Traci Thompson.

Joe W. Dickens, Jr.

Bessie Duke

Beadie Web, David Webb and grandson David.

Now! Join The National Arbor Day Foundation and Get

FREE TREES

10 Flowering Trees

2 White Flowering Dogwoods | 2 Flowering Crabapples | 2 Goldenraintrees | 2 Washington Hawthorns | 2 American Redbuds

Join The National Arbor Day Foundation, a non-profit organization, and you'll receive ten free flowering trees — 2 White Flowering Dogwoods, 2 Flowering Crabapples, 2 Goldenraintrees, 2 Washington Hawthorns, and 2 American Redbuds, or other trees selected for your area.

You will also receive the Foundation's colorful bimonthly, *Arbor Day*, a membership card, and *The Tree Book* with tree planting and care information with your six month membership. Your six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow and come postpaid with easy planting instructions. Trees are shipped at the right time for planting in your area, Feb. through May in the spring or Oct. through mid Dec. in the fall. **Join today, and plant your Trees for America!**

☑ **YES! Please send my 10 free flowering trees, and free Rose of Sharon.** My $10 membership contribution is enclosed.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ ZIP_____

National Arbor Day Foundation
211 N. 12th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

4718

Plant the seeds of togetherness this spring.

Bring the whole family to Pigeon Forge.

Our annual Springfest celebration kicks off in March with A Mountain Quiltfest™ and includes exciting events such as Dollywood's Festival of Nations and Smoky Mountains Traditions. With outlet shopping, live shows, Parkway attractions and the beautiful Smoky Mountains, spring is definitely our most colorful season. Visit us online for dates and information on our Springfest events.

YOUR ALL-AMERICAN GETAWAY
ACTION-PACKED
PIGEON FORGE
TENNESSEE

VACATION PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT: www.mypigeonforge.com

1-800-434-5392

Got Land?

- WE build on YOUR lot, or on property you'd like to purchase
- WE pay construction loan interest!
- WE pay points & closing cost!
- Numerous floor plans and options
- Land & Home financing available
- 3 Locations: Charlotte, Greensboro, & Columbia

FREE BROCHURE
Just mail this coupon or call today

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Where do you intend to build: _____
Mail to:

Madison Homebuilders
1721 East Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28203

FOR FLOOR PLANS & A FREE BROCHURE CALL TOLL FREE:

1-800-957-9304

Madison Homebuilders
www.madisonhomebuilders.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT Horror Stories

Home sweet home. A dream come true for many, there's nothing like owning your own little piece of heaven on earth. A place where you can put your feet up, let your hair down, and even run around in the buff if you feel like it.

But it doesn't take long to realize that home ownership is not all sweetness and light. It's a big responsibility and a whole heckuva lot of maintenance—more for some than others, as your stories illustrate. From a hungry Ditch Witch to an underwear-clad, glue-covered husband, your stories made us laugh, sympathize and learn important lessons.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a story. The judges' selections are on these pages and you can see more on our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com.

In March we'll publish your gardening secrets (deadline was January 15). For the remaining themes and rules in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series, see page 24.

—Tara Verna, Associate Editor

INDOOR SNOWSTORM

Years ago, my husband and I combined families and decided to expand my house. As the remodeling progressed, an out-of-town trip seemed the perfect time for a subcontractor to spray the perlite texture to match the existing ceilings.

After arriving home, we noted the beautiful ceilings. However, everything else—the furniture, boxes and rolled carpets—looked as if we'd had an inch of snow. Despite their assurances that nothing would be damaged, the workmen, left alone by their boss, had covered none of our possessions. Though we cleaned for days, months later, as I hung pictures in our newly remodeled living room, I found white particles behind the glass of our wedding photos.

Patricia Raible
Monroe
Union Power Cooperative

LIVING ROOM ROCKSLIDE

My husband and I live in an 1840s farmhouse. We decided to have the chimney lined by a chimney sweep who would pour a mixture of concrete and sand down the chimney where it would settle around the flue. The work was started on a Saturday afternoon. About 4 p.m., the chimney sweep told me that he was almost finished. The mixture would now harden.

I was preparing supper when I heard what sounded like a loud rockslide. I raced into the living room and saw the mixture had collapsed over my den carpet. I ran outside to tell the chimney sweep who then rushed inside and saw the horrific mess. The chimney sweep claimed it was the first time such a thing had happened. He said, "The best thing to do is to let the mixture harden. I will come back on Monday, vacuum it up, and the carpet will be as good as new."

The mixture hardened. The chimney sweep vacuumed it up and then poured another liner that worked. It was the last liner he ever poured.

Lillian Harden
North Windsor
Roanoke Electric Cooperative

HOW NOT TO RUN A DITCH WITCH

A good friend of mine asked me to help him dig a trench in his yard so that he could run an electric line from his house to his barn. So early one morning, we rented a large Ditch Witch trencher.

When we got to his house, he went inside to change clothes and I decided to start the trencher and let it warm up. Unbeknownst to me, the trencher was in drive mode and began slowly creeping forward with its tines in motion. In a panic, I couldn't find the off switch, and within seconds, it had ripped two gaping holes in the back door of his van. Fortunately, when it began pulling against the hold-down chains, it broke the drive shear pin and quit moving. Otherwise, I guess it would have completely devoured his van.

After we took it back to the rental company and had the shear pin replaced, we began again. This time we hit the branch city water line serving his house. After spending an hour trying to get the five-sided nut loose on the water meter cover, we were able to get the water turned off and continue trenching. Next, we dug up the electric line going to his yard light.

Our final act of destruction involved cutting through the city gas line that went

to his house. As luck would have it, the gas company's regular workers were on strike so an emergency crew of supervisory personnel was dispatched to make the repair. It was quite a sight seeing those guys in their white shirts and dress pants crawling around in the hole trying to shut off the flow of gas. Needless to say, they weren't very happy.

This was probably the worst day of my life. I've never had so many things go wrong in one day. Two things I learned: 1) Know how to operate your equipment before starting a job, and 2) Always call a locator service before you dig.

Dennis Fruits
Dallas
Rutherford EMC

DREAM SWING BITES THE DUST

At last! We were ready for the finishing touch on our brand-new log cabin, "Dream Spirit," in the North Carolina mountains: a cozy porch swing. As we assembled drill, eyebolts, chain and ladder to hang the swing, we fantasized about lazy afternoons gently swaying in a cloud of pillows. We'd read, doze, dream and watch for deer, wild turkeys, bobcats and maybe even black bears.

Marcia Hickman (left) and Reene Ann Slack test out the dream swing.

Our faithful neighbors, Reene Ann and Pat, were on hand to help. Soon the swing dangled proudly from the porch rafters and it was time to try it out. Marcia and Reene seated themselves ceremoniously and shoved off. Blam! Reene's side of the swing crashed to the porch floor, simultaneously ripping a board off of the ceiling. I ran for the camera. The bolts, we later discovered, had not been centered properly in the ceiling's two-by-fours. Luckily, Reene has a sense of humor as well as a little padding and was not hurt.

We'll all be telling the tale and showing the photo for years to come.

Sue Spirit
Zionville
Blue Ridge Electric

PRESSURE WASHERS

My dad usually did all the repair work or painting at our house. Several years ago, we kids decided to paint the house for him since he was getting up in years and didn't need to be on a ladder. The old paint was flaking and needed to be scraped off. My brother-in-law Gale Wilson and I agreed that scraping would be too much work and we should use a pressure washer to knock the old paint off.

One afternoon, Gale brought a pressure washer over to start the job. The only problem was that neither of us knew how to work it. We experimented with different nozzles from the smallest, which actually cut down into the wood, to the largest, which didn't do much at all, until we found the right one. After adjusting the pressure and having everything just perfect, we went all over the house. The old paint came off with ease. The pressure washer made easy work out of a potentially hard job.

Not until the next day, after the house had dried, did we discover that not only had the paint been knocked loose from the house, but some of the wood had as well. This resulted in a house of splinters. My sisters tried to smooth out a section by sanding, but it didn't work. Daddy was so discouraged. He told my mother, "Mama, those boys have ruined my house."

After Gale and I explained that this would be the perfect opportunity to put vinyl siding on the house, Daddy agreed. When the siding job was done, Daddy was very happy and pleased because the 50-year-old house looked new.

My whole family still laughs about this ordeal.

Tony H. Fox
Statesville
EnergyUnited

THE CHEAPEST HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EVER?

My wife and I had been married for a little over a year when I had the worst idea of my life. I decided to remove the old storm windows (eyesores) from our home. I then noticed that almost every window had at least one cracked pane. After viewing a TV show about glass cutting, the idea hit me. I would replace all of the 21 cracked panes using the glass from the 16 storm windows that we would no longer use.

It was a hot morning in July when I went to Lowe's for a glasscutter. The salesperson assured me that it was quite simple: just measure (twice), mark the cut, score the glass, tap and voila! This was going to be the cheapest home improvement project ever, because the replacement glass was free, and I only spent $5 for the cutter.

With hammer in hand, I started to break out the cracked panes. I measured, marked and scored the glass, tapped as instructed, and the storm window shattered. The same thing happened with the second, third and the fourth windows. After breaking 10 storm windows without cutting the FIRST replacement pane, I began to panic.

I called every glazier listed in the phone book but none were open. Then the sky blackened and we had one of the worst thunderstorms of the summer. I was running around the house with cling-wrap and tape, trying to cover the 21 open windowpanes. Rain and hail blew into the house in a couple of rooms and several puddles of water had to be mopped up.

The following Monday, a professional glazier came to the house and measured, cut, tapped and replaced 21 missing panes —to the tune of $150.

Benny Nichols
Arafat
Surry-Yadkin EMC

MOTHER NATURE LENDS A HAND

One day, years ago, my parents decided to paint the house a new shade of white. After visiting Home Depot, they started to paint the siding that encased the house.

They finished an entire side by about 5 p.m. They neglected, however, to check the weather forecast. Dark storm clouds brought disaster. Rain soaked the siding, washing off the still-wet paint, and ruining all of my parents' hard work.

This disaster showed them the importance of planning a project. They started again the next day, taking care that the weather forecast was clear, lest they ruin another paint job.

Matthew Peterson
Matthews

continued on p. 24

continued from p. 23

HOOKER RED VS. HUNTER GREEN

When my husband and I finally found a house we could afford, I was ecstatic. This meant we wouldn't have to rent, and I could paint my walls any color I wanted.

After getting what seemed like a million paint samples, I narrowed it down to a deep cranberry/burgundy. I was going to paint the wall one color and then "rag roll" the deeper color on top. It took a lot of effort on my part to convince my husband that this was the "perfect" color. He wanted to paint the room hunter green. Green was a bold step to him, but cranberry was a leap of faith. He finally agreed, and I called my sister, an experienced rag-roller, to come help while John went to work.

We put the first swipe of paint on the wall and gasped. Whew! It was bright. "Don't worry," my sister said. "When you add darker color, this is going to be really pretty."

When my husband came home, he had the same devastated look that I had. In my mind I knew it looked like the "red light district," but somehow I hoped that other people would think it looked better. The first thing everyone blurted out before they had a chance to be polite was, "This looks like hooker red!"

Needless to say, we now have a beautiful hunter green room.

Anna Robinson
Wingate
Union Power Cooperative

UNDRESSED FOR THE JOB

About four years ago, we decided to replace the worn vinyl in our foyer and hallway with wood plank flooring (the glue-down type.)

As we started, I noticed that my husband had on his best jean shorts and a good shirt. I reminded him that he needed to change into old clothing. Instead, he shed all but his jockey shorts. Since it was hot and humid out, we decided to cut the few planks that needed to be cut in the kitchen and proceeded to put down newspaper to collect the sawdust.

As we worked, we prided ourselves on the job we were doing and lack of mess, but as we progressed toward the narrow hallway, it became harder to keep from getting in the glue.

My husband accidentally stepped in glue as he went to cut another plank. Of course, the sawdust (and the newspaper we had put down to collect it) stuck to his feet. When we finished, his nice, curly-haired legs and arms were covered with glue and the tools were a sticky mess. The sight of my underwear-clad husband stuck to sawdust and newspaper sent me into gales of laughter.

Days later, he was still plucking glue from his arms and legs but the floor turned out to be a beautiful piece of work. It was well worth the mess and provided the best laugh I'd had in a long time.

Judy Wood
Havelock
Carteret-Craven EC

ONE YEAR TO REMODEL 100 YEARS

Many generations lived in the house after my great-grandmother bought it in 1897. It was a house of love, fun, fellowship and food.

In 2000, my family began remodeling the house. What we expected to be a six-week job became a year-long project.

The appearance changed, but the charm and warmth of the house remained. The old has not passed away; it has been refined with hard work.

Kathryn A. Wise
Vale
Rutherford EMC

A year-long remodeling project took an 1897 kitchen (top) into the year 2000.

Send us your best
Earn $50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

APRIL 2004
"The Camping Trip I Will Never Forget"
Where was it and what happened? Send pictures.
Deadline: Feb. 15

MAY 2004
"What We Did When the Power Went Out"
Smart – and maybe not-so-smart – ways to cope during an outage.
Deadline: March 15

JUNE 2004
"Being a Teenager Today"
What are you going through? Or: How does it compare to when you were one?
Deadline: April 15

JULY 2004
"Our Money Pit"
What was the biggest waste of money you remember?
Deadline: May 15

AUGUST 2004
"Was I Wrong!"
Lessons you learned the hard way.
Deadline: June 15

SEPTEMBER 2004
"My Favorite Photo"
North Carolina people and places. Digital ones must be 300 dpi and printable size.
Deadline: July 15

OCTOBER 2004
"If I Were Governor of North Carolina"
What would you do?
Deadline: August 15

NOVEMBER 2004
"Mama's Cooking Was Always the Best"
Send a recipe, if you have one, and photos.
Deadline: Sept. 15

DECEMBER 2004
"Meeting Your Grandparents"
Something you never knew about a grandparent.
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

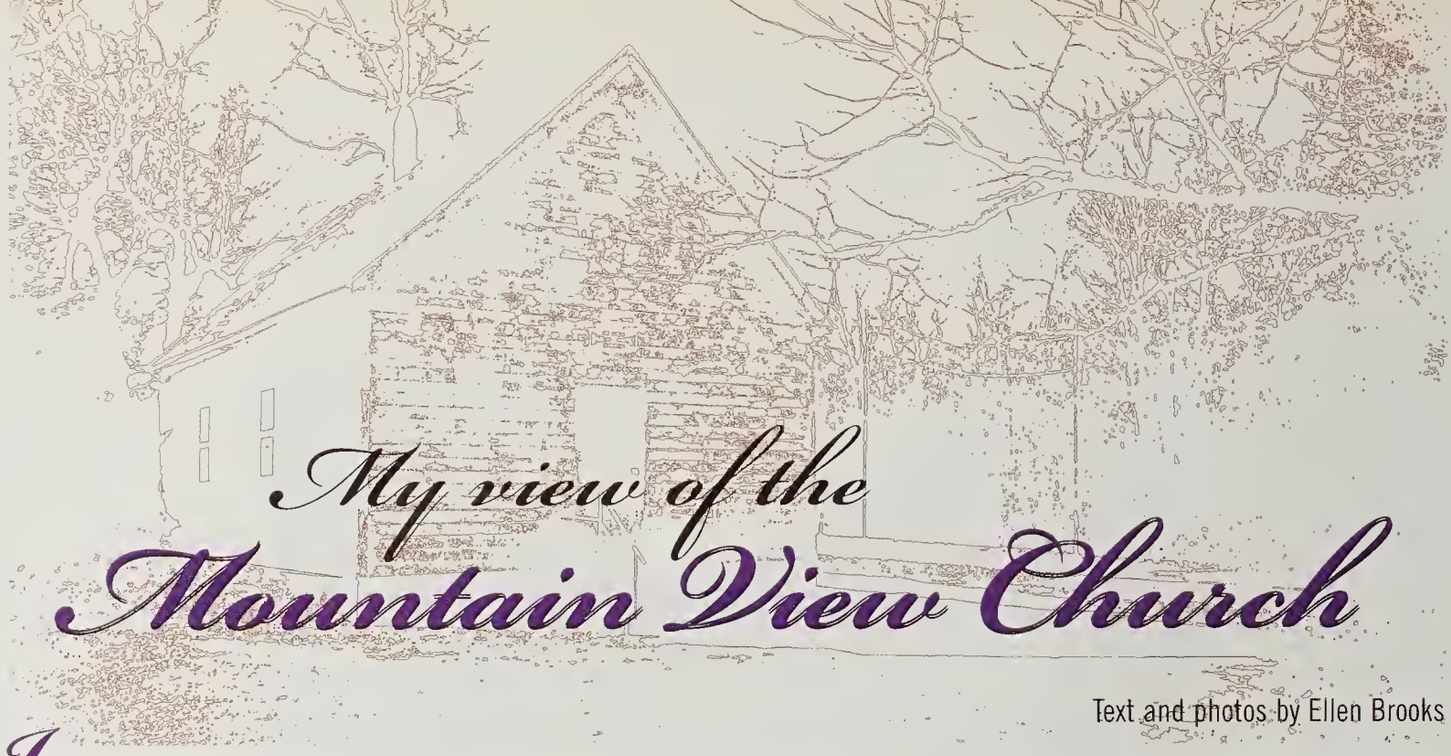
1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

CAROLINA CABINS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Adkins moved this cabin into their backyard in Stokes County in 1990. It had originally been built by Mrs. Adkins' great-grandfather in 1893.

Greg and Tina Smith built this cabin behind their Surry County home in the late 1990s.

PHOTOGRAPHY ©2004 BY GERALD YOKELY
MOMENTS IN CAROLINA, 7599 HOLLYBERRY LN.
TOBACCOVILLE, NC 27050, *Momentsincarolina@att.net*



My view of the Mountain View Church

Text and photos by Ellen Brooks

It's just a small, white country church in a rural part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The building came into existence sometime around 1906. The first pastor was Andy McKnight. The second was my Uncle Mack Brooks.

I was born in 1938. All through my childhood here in Alleghany County, going to Mountain View Regular Baptist Church was simply a way of life for me.

When I was a child the church had no electricity. (My father's house had no electricity until the Blue Ridge Electric cooperative came along in 1951, when I was 13 years old.) During revival times, kerosene lamps lit the church. The lamps sat on little shelves built along the wall for that purpose.

The church had one door. There was an aisle down the middle, with benches on each side facing forward. Directly in front was a small raised pulpit with a lectern, and facing it on each side were three benches where the church's most devout members and best singers sat.

A cast-iron wood burning stove sat in the open section at the front end of the isle. At the back of the church was a wood box that was never empty. I never wondered who kept the box filled. I never wondered who would come in early in the winter and make the fire so the women, children and babies would not get cold. I only know it was always warm when I got there. There would always be a man who kept adding wood when it would start to get low.

Directly in front of the pulpit sat a wooden table that held a peck bucket and a dipper. Before church, someone would go to the clear mountain spring at the foot of the hill and fill the bucket with water. When you got thirsty you went up and got a drink. Mama and Daddy limited the times we could go get water. If left to decide on our own, we children would probably have been drinking every 15 minutes.

There was no organ or piano music, just the singing, long and slow. The congregation would sing for close to an hour out of small, thick black hymn books. Uncle Mack would start the songs and the congregation would join in. After Daddy died, Mama gave me his hymn book. It is one of my most treasured possessions.

If Uncle Mack ever owned a car, I have no memory of it. His home was roughly half a mile from the church, down a private little road through the woods and fields. He would walk up to the road carrying a black leather satchel containing his Bible and hymn book. Usually someone on their way to church would come along and give him a ride.

Uncle Mack and Daddy were always close. Uncle Mack visited us often at our house, and I felt totally free to go to his. As a girl, I made no division between Uncle Mack and God. If Uncle Mack said it, he verbally expressed the thoughts of God. I loved him without exception.

Daddy had his own personal parking place at the church. All the people who went there knew "Uncle Frank's" parking place. Out of respect (and fear), they stayed out of it.

There was never a question of whether or not we went to church at Mountain View meeting time. We just went. It was as much a part of our lives as planting potatoes in the spring.

Rarely did the males and females sit together in this church. As you entered the building, women and girls sat on the left while men and boys sat on the right. Occasionally, when a young couple was seriously courting, they would sit together. All us children would stare at them and snicker and giggle when our parents weren't watching. After a couple married and settled in, they took their rightful places in the church. Males on the right, females on the left.

In Revival

As children we rarely went anywhere at night, so it was a big deal to us when the church was in revival. Revivals back then could last anywhere from 10 days to a month, depending on how much interest there was and the number of people who were seeking a spiritual bonding with the Father and the Son.

When the church was in revival, there were services day and night for as long as it took. For two or three hours in the middle of the day, we left all work undone while we attended church. Then at night we would wash up, put on the same clean clothes we had worn earlier in the day and go back.

The services, day and night, lasted as long as there was a person longing for salvation. Those who had never experienced a born-again relationship with God would go each night to the front of the church, get down on their knees and pray until their spiritual needs were met. The entire congregation would sing and pray along with those who were seeking forgiveness of their sins.

After each revival there would be a baptizing. The size of the baptizing depended on the number of converts. If my memory serves, it could be from six to 20 people getting baptized.

There were no indoor pools, no heated water. In fact if the revival had taken place in winter, it was not unusual to break ice on the water before the ceremony.

Baptizing was always held on a Sunday morning. The entire congregation would attend. All family members, friends and neighbors were welcome to attend, regardless of where they went to church. Uncle

Mack would have the "baptizing hole" in the creek behind his house all dammed up and ready for the occasion. We would all gather there on the banks of the clear mountain creek.

The men in charge of the church building could afford to change anything they want, even to modernize the building inside and out. But they choose not to.

Directly in front was a small raised pulpit with a lectern, and facing it on each side were three benches where the church's most devout members and best singers sat.

Whoever was to be baptized would wear white. If they didn't own a white dress or pants and shirt, someone in the congregation would lend it. People back then didn't own an outfit of every color as we do today. Usually they had no extra money to spend on a one-time need. So people shared whatever they had.

The congregation would sing hymns and the preacher would give a short sermon. A lot of the time, they baptized in pairs: sisters, female friends, married couples. A preacher would stand on each side of the person or persons being put under the water. It was always a beautiful, meaningful ceremony. Then we would all go back to the church for regular services. At the end of the service, the entire church body would give the "right hand of fellowship" to those who had joined the church by baptism. They were now a member of the church with full rights and privileges.

Today at Mountain View

You may think that the church and its members as they existed back then are gone with the wind. Wrong.

In the section of the Blue Ridge Mountains where I live, almost without exception the small country churches of my childhood have updated their interior and exterior appearances. They have added Sunday School rooms, inside bathrooms, enclosed entrance rooms, padded seats, electric or gas heat. But not Mountain View. The exterior of the church remains exactly the same. The only interior change is the light bulbs in the ceiling.

The church still heats with a wood stove, and the wood box still sits in the back. The toilets are small outbuildings standing discreetly out of your immediate vision. The males still sit on the right, the females on the left. There is no organ or piano music in the church. A peck bucket

of clear mountain water still sits on the table with a dipper hanging over the rim. The order of the service and how it is conducted are exactly as they were when I was a child.

Today's congregation is made up mostly of friends and relatives of Curtiss Evans. Preacher Evans (now deceased) was the pastor who followed Uncle Mack. Today, the two preachers who conduct the services are the son of Curtiss Evans, Ralph Evans, and his son Timmy Evans.

The church is maintained deliberately just as it was in my childhood days. The men in charge of the church building could afford to change anything they want, even to modernize the building inside and out. But they choose not to. They believe very strongly that it pleases God to worship exactly as they did when the church first came into existence. They believe that all the people who worshipped there before their time were absolutely right in their beliefs and actions. Therefore, it is not necessary or expedient to change anything at all. And they still do the revivals and the baptizing just as they always have.

They do a wonderful job of maintaining the church and the adjoining cemetery. In the summer the grass is mowed and trimmed with regularity. They paint the church, gravel the drive, fertilize the yard and cemetery, sweep the floor and wash the windows exactly when needed. The families work together as a team.

There are a lot of children and young people in this church. They are taught to honor and respect the old church and what it stands for. They are brought up to do their share in caring for the building and the grounds.

How do I know so much about the church and the congregation? It sits directly on the other side of my driveway. The cemetery is practically in my back yard.

I also attend the church from time to time. I attend because I love and respect the congregation. The members are mostly under 50 years old, and many are a lot younger: teenagers, small children and babies. They are the most well-behaved group of youngsters I have been around. I also know them away from the church. They are good students, likable and mischievous.

I have done a lot of church wandering in my time. I have attended all different denominations and types of churches. At present, I am a member of no earthly, organized body of believers. I am not rooted and grounded in a single set of written interpretations of the Holy Bible. However, I have great respect for those who try to live by what they believe.

I would like to think that the old church will be standing just as it is when my spirit leaves this world. During a business meeting not long ago, I stood to make a request of the congregation. I asked permission that my body be buried there in the cemetery that contains the dust of many relatives and friends, including my mother, father, sister, two brothers and second son, who was killed at age 22. The members of the church voted to grant my request to be laid to rest in the cemetery.

In my opinion, the Mountain View Church is one of a kind. The members are devout, dedicated and sincere. They mind their own business and ask for no financial help in the care and maintenance of the building. I hope and pray the little white church will be standing for many years to come, filled with a congregation of people who are sincerely working out their salvation in the way they firmly believe is pleasing to God.

Ellen Brooks is a member of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation who lives in Glade Valley, Alleghany County.

Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Boone

Photography © by Frederica Georgia, Vilas, N.C.

AMERICA'S LEADING ON-YOUR-LOT BUILDER

Check out our new studs

Five brand new home designs

Of course, our "studs" are built board-by-board from the ground up. See our Contemporary Collection at your nearest New Home Gallery today. Easy financing available.

For a free catalog and the location of the Jim Walter Homes near you call **1-800-492-5837 ext. 70**.

You Just Got Home.℠

www.jimwalterhomes.com/70

Artist's rendering of homes may include additions, options or modifications not part of our standard offering. State License Numbers: AL-523, AR-0100360502, FL-CRC057112, LA-81939, TN-23042, MS-R00356, NC-10840, SC-10156, VA-2701010439A, WV-008536. Georgia residential mortgage licensee. Mississippi Licensed Mortgage Company - 4211 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Tampa, FL 33607. © 2004 Jim Walter Homes, Inc. Copyright strictly enforced.

SPORTS TECH NEWS — 2004

New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.

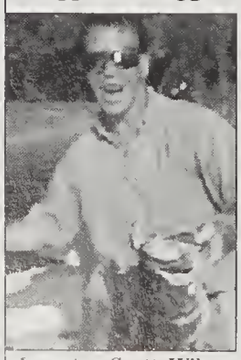
Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.

by Charlie Allen

ORLANDO, FL— A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.

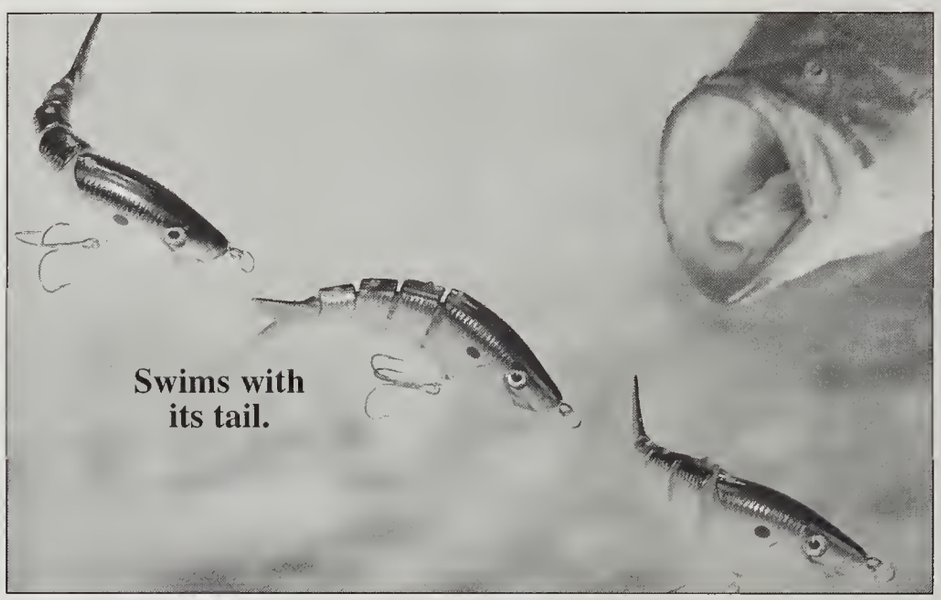
Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The KickTail™) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail caught 41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail won 19 to 4. The KickTail also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.



Inventor Scott Wilson lands a 10-pounder.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patent-pending technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known principle called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.



New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.

"Fish attack live things, and they determine if something is alive by watching its movements. Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail doesn't do is breathe. It's better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail. It's like having another potato chip.

Increases catch almost 3 to 1.

"To make the KickTail even more lifelike, we gave it a natural shad color and shaped it like the most prevalent bait fish of all, the threadfin. Game fish gobble up more threadfin shad than any other baitfish.

"We knew the KickTail would out-fish other lures. It had to. Other lures wobble their heads and swim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's huge! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home run. Fishermen reserved thousands of KickTails before we produced it! Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish.

"The flutter technology also allows the KickTail to swim at the water's surface. Other top water lures must be worked to have any live action, or have a bill that makes them dive on retrieval. Our diver version is the only deep crank bait that let's you do tricks like 'walk the dog.' Twitch it at deep levels and it gives an irresistible, lifelike action. Other lures 'dig.' And there's no need for rattles. The five tail segments click together as you pull it through the water, calling fish from a distance."

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each lure costs $9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only $79.95, a savings of almost $20.00. S/h is only $6.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call **1-800-873-4415** or click **www.ngcsports.com** anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (**Dept. KT-647**), 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

KTS-5 © NGC Worldwide, Inc. 2004 **Dept. KT-647**

ELECTRIC CO-OPS SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF TAMPER-PROOF

Child Guarde Receptacle Protector

Chris Skarie (right) came up with the idea for Child Guarde after his daughter Jasmine tried to insert a key into an electrical outlet as a toddler.

When you become a parent for the first time, the knowledge that you are completely responsible for the safety of your child is instantaneous. You must teach your child about the dangers of many things, including electricity and outlets.

Chris and Shelley Skarie were well aware of this by the time their second child, Jasmine, was a toddler. However, Jasmine inadvertently got a hold of a set of car keys and was about to insert a key into an electrical outlet when Shelley discovered it. If Shelley had been a few moments later, the outcome could have been far different. Because of their smaller body mass, children can suffer severe burns and, in extreme cases, electrocution when they stick objects into electrical outlets. The event frightened Shelley and her husband.

Some time later, Chris Skarie told his uncle what had happened, and the two of them wondered if there was any way to make outlets safer for kids. "As we were kicking around the idea," Chris said, "we realized everybody out there was doing it backwards. Instead of trying to keep the kids from putting things in an outlet, just make sure there isn't any power there when they do."

Chris set out to develop a product that would do just that. "I built the first unit using electrical components that you can buy right off the shelf," he said. "The technology was already there, I just put it together in a new way."

Chris, a mechanical engineer by trade, and his uncle Loren Skarie evolved and patented the technology that is able to distinguish the difference between foreign objects and a proper plug. This tamper-resistant device keeps power to the outlet off until the dual sensors detect the insertion of a proper plug.

Chris and Loren knew they had invented something of value and pursued investors to further develop the product and take it to market. "One of the first places we looked to was the electrical cooperatives," said Chris. "We were familiar with cooperatives, we appreciated their philosophy, and we felt it was something their customers would value."

Refining the technology

"We were interested in this product immediately," said Steve Lindenberg, executive director of Research and Technical Services at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Arlington, Va. "It is beyond the scope of what we normally participate in through the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research arm of the NRECA, but we thought it had a lot of merit."

The CRN typically offers research support for projects closely-tied to core electric co-op services and in most cases products ready to enter the market.

"This product is unique because of its promise directly to consumers," said Lindenberg. "We were interested in funding this technology because of its safety component. It offers an additional level of safety to homeowners and families, especially with small children."

The CRN has three objectives when funding product research: share the financial risk, analyze the product from a technical aspect, and look at its ability to become a stable, operational business.

In exchange for CRN research support of this product, CRN took an equity ownership and hopes to receive repayment for the investment. Similar to smoke alarms or ground fault outlets, this product has the same opportunity to be used in hundreds, thousands or perhaps every home in the U.S., Lindenberg said.

Going to market

After further developing the product, Chris' dad, Carl Skarie and Don Lende of Pelican Rapids, Minn., owners of Northern Lakes Technology in Detroit Lakes, Minn., licensed the outlet attachment as The Child Guarde™ with Dual Sensor Technology™ under the Home Guardian™ brand.

The next important step was to submit the Child Guarde to the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) for approval. Most retailers require a UL listing before they will sell safety products. The UL is an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization. They have tested products for public safety for more than a century.

The Child Guarde is currently in testing at UL and will be listed by them soon, according to Carl Skarie.

The cost is about $25 each. Some cooperatives may sell Child Guarde in the future. You can now purchase it online at:

- **www.drbabyproofer.com**
- **www.safebegennings.com**
- **www.childguarde.com**

The Child Guarde is placed in a standard duplex outlet and will not pull out when removing electrical plugs. It keeps power to the outlet off until the dual sensors detect the insertion of a proper plug.

Learn More: Northern Lakes Technology, Inc., P.O. Box 1702, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502. Phone: 218-846-9512.

Advertisement

Old Cookbook Reveals

"Amazing Details of Washington's Dining Habits"

by Guy Coalter,
Special Features Writer

Canton OH, Special - With hundreds of servants at her command... a person would think our first First Lady was a woman of leisure.

Not so... according to a new historical discovery. A long out-of-print volume entitled, *"The Martha Washington Cook Book"* shows Mrs. Washington personally supervised her entire household staff... and especially the kitchen and dining room servants.

Martha made sure every dish served at Mount Vernon... as well as in the first Presidential *"White Houses"* in New York and Philadelphia... was prepared exactly as called for in her personal cookbook.

The family cookbook was given to Martha at the time of her first marriage.

In 1749, beautiful seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis. As a wedding gift, the Custis family presented Martha with a family cookbook entitled *Booke of Cookery and Booke of Sweetmeats.*

Handwritten by an unknown hand, there is evidence the recipe book had been in the Custis family for generations. It is quite likely this was a family heirloom dating back to the early 1600s. In all, there were over five hundred classic recipes, dating largely from Elizabethan and Jacobean times, the golden age of English cookery.

Later, Martha Custis became a widow and in 1759 she married Col. George Washington. Washington was to become the Father of our country and its first President. Martha, of course, became our very first, *"First Lady."*

Martha kept and used her family cookbook for over fifty years. In 1799, she presented the book to her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis as a wedding gift when she married Lawrence Lewis.

The cookbook was handed down from mother to daughter until 1892 when the Lewis family presented it to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania where it still resides today.

In 1940, the Society gave permission to historian Marie Kimball to study the manuscript and prepare a cookbook entitled, *"The Martha Washington Cook Book."* Although now long out-of-print, an Ohio publisher was recently commissioned to reprint a limited edition of this rare and amusing piece of Americana.

Accordingly, a limited number of copies are being made available to the public at this time. Each volume is numbered and when the present printing is exhausted, there is no contract to print more. These cookbooks could very easily become valuable collectors items.

Martha Washington

"The Martha Washington Cook Book" includes facsimile copies of several actual pages from the one-of-a-kind original manuscript. Then, Mrs. Kimball chose over 200 delicious unique recipes from Martha Washington's personal cookbook and completely modernized them so you can easily prepare them in your own kitchen!

The original recipes were written for a huge household including numerous servants. Many called for dozens of eggs and gallons of one thing or another. Marie Kimball *"trimmed"* each recipe to quantities of ingredients for a family of six.

You'll get dozens of delicious recipes for Soups, Fish, Meats, Meat Pies, Poultry and Game, Sauces, Eggs - Mushrooms and Cheese, Fritters and Pancakes, Pastry - Pies and Tarts, Cakes, Creams and Jellies, Puddings, Preserves, and Beverages.

Perhaps more interesting for us history buffs is the detailed description of the kitchen and dining habits in the George Washington household. Martha sat at the head of the table with her husband at her side to the right.

Despite dozens of servants around the table, either Martha or George always carved the meats to be served!

You'll absolutely love dozens of other interesting details of this historical dining room.

"The Martha Washington Cook Book" is a beautiful perfect bound book you will be proud to display on your coffee table, bookshelf, or where ever you keep your very best books.

Your friends and neighbors are guaranteed to be envious... *and you are guaranteed to be completely satisfied with your cookbook.* You may examine and use it for a full three months and return it for a full no-questions-asked refund if you desire.

Although not available in bookstores, you may order your cookbook directly from the publisher. There is a strict limit however, of only two copies per customer.

To get your copy, simply write your name and address on a plain piece of paper. Mail it along with your remittance of only 19.95 plus $3.98 postage and handling (total of $23.93) to: Washington Cookbook, Special Offer MC2096, 718 - 12th Street N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701.

You may charge to VISA or MasterCard by including your card number, expiration date and signature. For even faster service, have your credit card handy and telephone toll-free 1-800-772-7285 and ask for Special Offer MC2096.

Act within the next 15 days and the publisher will include a free bonus... *a selection of delightful recipes from the personal cookbook of President Thomas Jefferson!*

"The Martha Washington Cookbook" makes an appreciated gift for any gift-giving occasion. Readers of this publication may request a second copy for only $6.07 postpaid. (Total of $30 for both.)

©2003 TCO MC0103S07

http://www.trescocorp.com

You know you're from North Carolina if . . .

Here is a humorous list that has made the rounds of the Internet without attribution. It imitates the jokes by Jeff Foxworthy that begin or end with "you might be a redneck."

If you can think of anything to add to this list, send it to us, and we'll run another round of them.

Here's where to send them:

E-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com
Mail: P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.
Phone: (919) 875-3062.

You know you're from North Carolina if . . .

You know Pepsi originated in New Bern, Cheerwine in Salisbury, and that Mountain Dew was invented in Lumberton.

You know Coke tastes better in the little bottles and that peanuts make Coke taste even better.

You have an opinion about UNC. You went there and loved it, or you hate everyone who did.

Your folks have taken trips to the mountains to look at leaves.

Your school took a field trip to the State Fair in Raleigh.

You would elect Richard Petty or Ric Flair for governor if either ever ran.

You watched as Dale Earnhardt was the only man who ever lived who could go 200 mph, spin somebody out, call them a you-know-what, and win the race, all in the last lap.

You skipped school or work to go to Dale Earnhardt's memorial service.

A tobaggon to you means a knit cap, not a sled.

You sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts for a school or church fundraiser before those glazed doughnuts went global.

When you're traveling out of state, people ask if you're from Mayberry.

You remember watching the ACC Tournament on television at school.

The local newspaper covers state, national and international news in one page, but sports requires six pages.

Most men in town consider the first day of deer season a national holiday.

Fifty degrees Fahrenheit is "a little chilly."

You have no problem spelling or pronouncing "Conetoe" or "Topsail."

Your school classes were canceled because of cold.

Your school classes were canceled because of heat.

Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waitin' to pass a tractor on the highway.

Your school classes were canceled because of a hurricane.

Your school classes were canceled because of hunting season.

Your school classes were canceled because of a livestock show.

You've ridden the school bus for an hour...each way.

You know more about ACC basketball than professional basketball.

You know the Carolina League is the greatest baseball league in the country.

You think South Carolina was dead weight well shed.

You know tea is served sweet unless you specifically ask for unsweetened.

You've ever had to switch from "Heat" to "A/C" in the same day.

You think ethanol makes your truck run a lot better.

Stores don't have bags...they have sacks and are called Piggly Wigglys.

You see people wearing bib overalls at funerals.

You see a car running in the parking lot at the store with no one in it, no matter what time of the year.

Most of the festivals around the state are named after a fruit, vegetable or tobacco.

Priming was your first job...and you know what it means.

Your idea of a really great tenderloin is when the meat is twice as big as the bun and comes with cole slaw on top.

You say catty-wampus, yunto, ill-ass and ah-ite.

You know the difference between a deer dog, a bear dog and a coon dog by the way they bark.

You put security lights on your house and your garage and leave both of them unlocked.

Your four seasons are almost summer, summer, still summer, and highway construction.

You can tell if another North Carolinian is from Eastern or Western North Carolina as soon as he opens his mouth.

You can spell words such as Ocracoke, Fuquay-Varina and Chocowinity.

Forgot Valentine's Day (again)?

Flower.com says that that if you get your order in by 2:30 p.m. on a weekday, they can deliver flowers to a North Carolina destination the same weekday. For same-day service on the weekend, you'll need to order by 1 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday. Flower.com is a national service that uses North Carolina florists for delivery to North Carolina homes and businesses. Delivery items include flowers, plants, specialty balloons and gift baskets. One dozen red roses is $67.99. Call (800) 366-3024 or visit www.flower.com.

N.C. Food Bank

Hunger remains a serious problem for some North Carolinians. The Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that provides food for people in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. Almost half of the people served by the Food Bank's network are children, and another 11 percent are elderly. Others are the working poor. The Food Bank welcomes religious, corporate and youth groups, service clubs, and individuals as volunteers. Volunteers, along with food and money donations, make it possible for the Food Bank to accomplish its mission of alleviating hunger. To help, call (919) 875-0707 or visit www.foodbank.org.

Certificates for getaways

You can treat a loved one to a relaxing getaway through gift certificates for participating B&Bs and inns in North Carolina. The certificates, available in amounts of $50 each through BedandBreakfast.com, will be delivered with a personal message from you. The recipient can choose a preferred date and location from the North Carolina list, or select among other participating properties across the U.S. There are at least 120 participating locations in North Carolina, and more than 3,000 to choose from nationwide. Call (800) 462-2632, extension 3483, or visit www.bedandbreakfast.com

Laurel Ridge B&B

Bed & Breakfast at Laurel Ridge borders the Rocky River and offers a country escape. For Valentine's Day, the Siler City B&B is offering a two-night minimum special that includes strawberries, chocolates and roses in the room. Sample breakfast menus include chocolate bread pudding with cream anglaise, eggs Nova Scotia, poached eggs with smoked salmon and hollandaise sauce, fresh juice and freshly ground coffee. Room rates per night range from $89 to $139. Massages and other spa services can be arranged. Nearby attractions include the North Carolina Zoo and Seagrove potteries. Call (800) 742-6049 or visit www.laurel-ridge.com.

"Without You"

Singer, composer and performer Richard Simmons' "Without You" contains ballads and tunes that celebrate the Lord. Songs from the 10 titles include "Heart Collector," "Are you Washed," "Happy Wheels of Joy" and "Resting Place." The Bertie County-born musician has made television appearances on "America's Gospel Favorites," "Carolina Calling," and "Gospel Music Television." Simmons was nominated "Pianist of the Year" by Singing News and took awards for "Male Quartet of the Year" (2002), "Voice of the Gospel Impact Award" (2000), and "New Artist of the Year" (2000). Call (407) 622-4600 or visit www.richardsimmonsmusic.com.

Outer Banks bride resource

Outer Banks Bride Magazine offers ideas and "do's and don'ts" for weddings held at the Outer Banks. The 28-page, full color magazine is free if you submit a request form online, and it provides a listing of more than 120 Outer Banks Wedding Association members. Visit www.outerbanksweddingassoc.org/obbride.html.

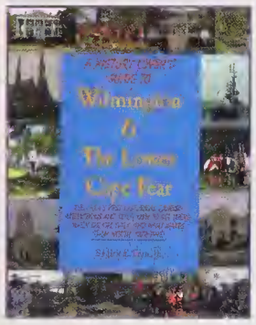
CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE IS ONLINE

Our store showcases items and services made in or for North Carolina. See more of what's in stock on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com. If you've got something for the store, send information and pictures to our storekeeper through the Web site or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

ON THE BOOKSHELF

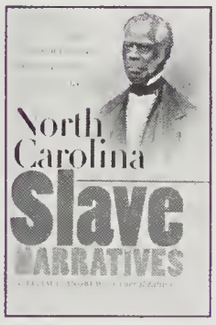
History guide to Wilmington & Cape Fear

This new 142-page book offers detailed histories of 71 attractions from Topsail Island to the South Carolina border. Complemented with more than 300 current and historic photos, "A History Lovers Guide to Wilmington & The Lower Cape Fear" includes information on a site's historical significance, contact information, admission fees, ferry schedules, maps and a listing of yearly events. Published by Dram Tree Books in Wilmington. Softcover, $17.95. Call (910) 251-8388 or visit www.dramtreebooks.com.



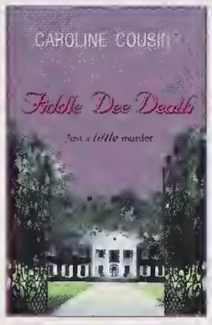
"North Carolina Slave Narratives"

The lives of former slaves Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy and Thomas H. Jones are examined in moving detail in this new collection. The four pre-1865 autobiographical narratives, set in North Carolina, were first widely read in the antebellum era and beyond. The piece by Grandy claims citizenship and the respect of full manhood. Lane's narrative discusses his experiences as a house slave to an elite Raleigh family in the wider context of economic and racial dynamics. Roper, who was owned or loaned to at least 15 masters, details his odyssey from a childhood of slavery to his adult achievements as an abolitionist. The last testimony, by Jones, delineates his experiences as a preacher to other slaves. Introductions to each narrative include historical information and explanatory notes. The editor, William L. Andrews, is an English professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, and has written or edited more than 30 books. Co-edited by David A. Davis, Tampathia Evans, Ian Frederick Finseth and Andrea N. Williams. Published by University of North Carolina Press. Hardcover, 296 pages, $27.50. Call (800) 848-6224 or visit www.uncpress.unc.edu.



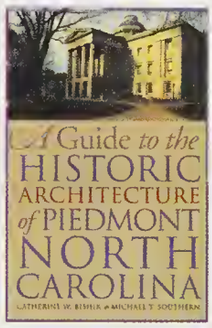
"Fiddle Dee Death"

Old photos, an old flame, and a dead body. Who is he? Did he fall or was he pushed? And can cousin Bonnie wear green to the funeral? Southern manners mix with mystery as three cousins dig up old secrets and scandals while solving a who-dunnit. Author Caroline Cousins satirizes the social byways of the South Carolina Low Country, while her sleuths discover shady real estate deals and the culprit's true hair color. Popular author Fannie Flagg termed this book "hilarious and entertaining." Published by John F. Blair in Winston-Salem. Softcover, 240 pages. $14.95. Call (800) 222-9796 or visit www.blairpub.com.



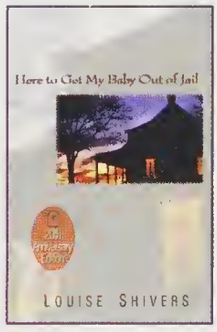
Guide to Piedmont architecture

This comprehensive guidebook by Catherine W. Bashir and Michael T. Southern considers the region's architecture in its natural environment, along with its settlement and growth history. "A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina" features more than 2,000 buildings and sites in central North Carolina, including log houses, mill villages, main streets, churches, Victorian neighborhoods, schools, civic buildings and skyscrapers. Highlights include such landmarks as North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium, Durham's Tobacco Company complex, Winston-Salem's Reynolda House and Charlotte's Bank of America corporate headquarters. Hardcover, 624 pages, 53 maps, 536 illustrations. Softcover, $22.50. (800) 848-6224 or visit www.uncpress.unc.edu.



"Here To Get My Baby Out Of Jail"

Author Louise Shivers tells the story of Roxy Walston, a bored young mother and wife who lives in a small eastern North Carolina farming community. Walston's husband is preoccupied with his tobacco crop, leaving Walston restless and open to an affair with a handsome visiting stranger that leads to murder. Originally released in 1983 by Random House, Shivers' first novel was lavishly praised by the likes of acclaimed writer Eudora Welty ("honest, accurate and sensitive eye") and The New Yorker ("Subtly vibrant"). Shivers was raised in Wilson County and educated at Meredith College in Raleigh. Softcover, 145 pages. The 20th-anniversary edition is $10.95. John F. Blair, Publisher, of Winston-Salem. Call (800) 222-9796 or visit www.blairpub.com.



"The Roman Years of a South Carolina Artist"

Caroline Carson (1820-1892) seemed destined for a life as a plantation mistress. Instead, Carson challenged Charleston convention, lived apart from her husband and made a life as an artist in New York and Rome. Carson's letters to her son from 1872-1892, edited by William H. Pease and Jane H. Pease, describe her intellectual and artistic pursuits, with insights into the emotional life of a mature woman. Interspersed are conversations with writers, artists and other famous visitors to her weekly salon, and observations about the scandalous lives of fellow expatriates. Letters selected in the book highlight the contrasting styles of American tourists and European aristocrats and depict Carson's scenic color paintings. Hardcover, 264 pages, 18 color illustrations, $39.95. Published by University of South Carolina Press in Columbia. Call (803) 777-4848 or visit http://www.sc.edu/uscpress.

Homeowner Loans

LOWEST RATES IN 40 YEARS

1ST MORTGAGES (Fixed Rates)

Amount	30 yr *5.250%	15 yr *4.750%
$75,000	$414.15	$583.37
$125,000	$690.25	$972.28
$200,000	$1,104.41	$1,555.66

Refinance Now
Rates are low
Don't Miss Out

- Lower your monthly payment
- Bill consolidation and home improvements
- Fast/local closings

Servicing North Carolina's Mortgage Needs Since 1991

FEDERATED MORTGAGE, INC.

(800) 466-1635

Apply by phone or online

www.fedmort.com

* Restrictions Apply
* Rates subject to change and qualification
* 30 year APR 5.46%
* 15 year APR 5.12%
* Credit and collateral subject to qualification

Multi-State Mortgage Licensee

Fixed Rates

Let us inspire you to new heights. Begin living the lifestyle you always dreamed about with a preview of the 70 models featured in our full color Planning Guide. As a special incentive to EMC Members, you can receive up to 25% off the purchase of your dream home. When you order your copy of our Planning Guide, let us know you are a North Carolina EMC member! For the special price of only $10.00, your savings will start immediately! Give us a call or come visit our sales center in North Carolina just off I-95, exit 145, then left. **1-877-542-5647**

AmerLink™
America's Log Home Company
www.amerlink.com/ncemc

shocking FACTS

Electricity is one of nature's most powerful forces. One way we measure electricity is by volts, which indicate the strength of an electrical current.

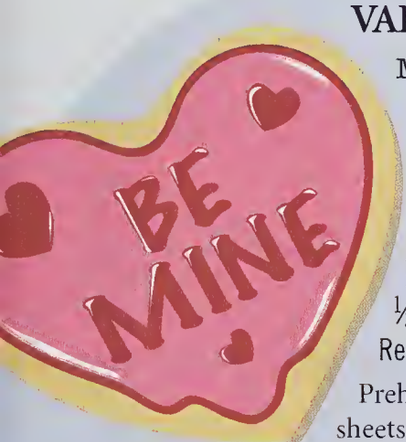
- Did you know that putting on a coat has the potential to generate 1,000 volts?
- Walking on a carpet has the potential to generate 3,000 volts?
- Using a comb has the potential to generate 10,000 volts?

A LOOK AT...

Name: Walter "Buck" Leonard
Born: Rocky Mount, N.C.
Batted: .391 average in 1948
Accomplishments: Known as the "black Lou Gehrig," smooth-fielding first baseman Walter "Buck" Leonard was one of the best hitters to play in the Negro leagues. Even-tempered and sweet-singing, Leonard was a terror at the plate and the backbone of the Homestead Gray's dynasty of the late 1930s and 1940s. The left-handed hitter eventually made Baseball's Hall of Fame. Leonard died in 1997 at the age of 90 and was buried in Rocky Mount.
Quote: "It is nice to receive praise and honor from men, but the greatest praise and honor come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." - B.L.
Little-Known fact: Leonard earned his high school diploma when he was 52, because Rocky Mount did not have a high school for African Americans when he was growing up.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Message-in-a-Cookie



1 egg white
¼ cup sugar
1 tablespoon water
2 tablespoons butter, melted
¼ teaspoon vanilla
⅓ cup flour
Red food coloring (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease cookie sheets. Put egg white and sugar in small bowl. Add water, butter, vanilla and mix. Add flour and stir. (For pink or red cookies, add a few drops of red food coloring at this time.) Drop by teaspoonsfuls onto cookie sheets. Flatten cookies with a spoon back until cookies are spread very thin and are almost transparent.

Bake 3-5 minutes, until lightly browned on edges. Remove quickly and work FAST. Place a fortune message on a small piece of red paper in the cookie and fold cookie in half, then in half again, to shape like a fortune cookie. Work with four to six cookies at a time. Examples of messages: "You are sweeter than this cookie," "I am sweet on you," and "Hey, cookie! I like you." Let cool before serving.

What does North Carolina's motto, "Esse Quam Videri," mean?

It means "To Be Rather Than To Seem"

classroom chuckle

What did the teacher say to the math students?

You've got a lot of problems!

SURF iT!

Web site about electricity: Museum of Science's site at **www.mos.org**

Walter "Buck" Leonard: visit the Negro League Baseball Players Association at **http://www.nlbpa.com/leonard__buck.htm**

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

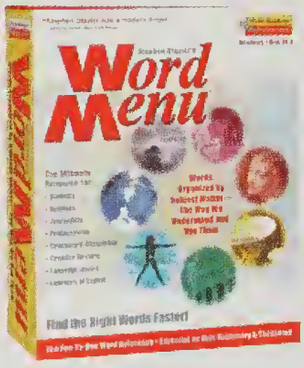
If you have suggestions or comments about our bimonthly page, Tar Heel Lessons, email carolina.country@ncemcs.com, write Carolina Country Tar Heel Lessons, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611, or call (800) 662-8835, ext. 3036.

Personal computing advice by Reid Goldsborough

Boosting the power of your word processor

In the competitive world of personal computers, software companies act like little empires, conquering related programs and gobbling up the territory they once held. Programs continually add features, causing other software that once consisted of only those features to go away.

The most commonly used office-type program, the word processor, is a case in point. Popular programs such as Microsoft Word now include a spelling and grammar checker, thesaurus, clip art, hyperlinking, page layout, envelope and label creation, mail merge, and other tools that you once needed other programs for.



But niches still exist for enterprising third-party companies to provide add-ons enabling you to do useful things that Word alone can't. Two good ones released relatively recently are Word Menu and GuruNet, both of which you can download and try out for free.

Word Menu is an idea thesaurus, similar to the older and still existing program IdeaFisher, though at $34.95 is less expensive. The program at its essence is a database of words organized hierarchically into categories, or "menus."

The simplest way to use the program is to browse through its 76,423 words in their 984 categories (new words are periodically added through Web updates). By browsing this way you can, for instance, learn the lingo of an unfamiliar field, from banking to world dance. Terms are accompanied by short definitions.

You can also use the search feature to turn the program into a reverse dictionary, letting you find the right word through other words in its definition, and a thesaurus, showing you related words.

If you're not satisfied with what the program itself offers, ingenuously, it lets you right-click on a word to connect to the Web sites Dictionary.com or Thesaurus.com for more definitions or synonyms. A fast Internet connection helps here.

Word Menu, at www.wordmenu.com, is available for computers running Windows or Mac OS X. The initial download is about 12 megabytes, with the free trial period lasting two weeks.

GuruNet, formerly called Atomica, is another wordsmithing tool, though it more tightly integrates with both your word processor (or any other program) and the Web. Unlike with Word Menu, whose content resides mostly on your hard disk, most of GuruNet's content resides on its Web site. This makes a fast Internet connection even more important.

Once you install the program, to find out more about any word on your screen in any program you're in, you just click on it while holding down the Alt key. Alternately, you can change this sequence, to Shift-Alt-click, for instance.

When you call upon the program this way, you're sent to GuruNet's Web site, which first presents you with a definition of the word, more detailed than with Word Menu. If you click on the speaker icon, a man's voice pronounces the word for you through your computer's speakers.

You can access more information about the word by clicking on tabs at the top of the window. These tabs show you synonyms for the word and any special technology or military meaning it may have.

Others tabs, impressively, provide a small film clip of a woman saying the word using sign language, translations of the word in 15 foreign languages, images relating to the word available for downloading, and news stories related to it. In all, you can access up to 150 dictionaries, glossaries, and reference works about the word you're exploring.

You can try out GuruNet, at www.atomica.com, without charge for one week. After that, there's a one-time charge of $39.99. Alternately, you can use an abridged ad-supported version for free. GuruNet currently works only with Windows and Microsoft Internet Explorer. The initial download is about 1.5 megabytes.

There's nothing stopping CD-ROM or DVD-based reference works such as Encyclopaedia Britannica, at www.eb.com, and Microsoft Encarta Reference Library, at www.microsoft.com/encarta.

It's quicker to access information with these programs than over the Web unless you have a cable, DSL, or other broadband Internet connection, and even if you have one, CD-ROM or DVD-based programs generally have more multimedia features than Web reference sites.

Word Menu complements CD-ROM dictionaries such as Oxford English Dictionary (Second Edition) on CD-ROM and The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on CD-ROM, at dictionary.oed.com, and the American Heritage Talking Dictionary, an older but still excellent dictionary and thesaurus available through various online discounters for under $10. The latter lets you quickly look up definitions, find synonyms and have a voice to pronounce words for you.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or http://www.netaxs.com/~reidgold/column.

Arco Quality Steel Buildings
1-800-241-8339

ARCO Building Systems has been named by Metal Construction News as the 5th largest builder of metal buildings in the United States. We offer, *Direct to the Consumer*, the highest quality all steel buildings available, as well as the engineers to answer all your questions. With ARCO, you receive the most attractive, maintenance free building on the market with the service to match.

People Who Know Buy ARCO

40X60X12	$ 7,947
50X75X10	$10,172
60X100X12	$15,750
60X75X12	$12,263
50X100X12	$13,186
100X100X12....w/column	$22,977
100X150X14....w/column	$34,981

FOB Plant -All sizes available-Local Codes may affect prices

20'X100'X8'6"...Mini-Warehouse.....$ 6,450

Mini-Warehouses available in all sizes

Arco

Arco Building Systems, Inc.
Visit us at our Web Site...www.arcosteel.com

CAMPBELL'S CHURCH PEW PADDING
30 years experience
Professional Excellent Workmanship
Call Toll Free 1-800-531-2220
We do not sell church pews. References available.

FREE HEARING CATALOG!
• 45 DAY TRIAL
• $199 & UP
BETTER HEARING
DEPT B34 Brookport, IL 62910
1-800-320-3300 EXT B34

BUY FACTORY DIRECT
SAVE UP TO 60% ON SELECTED MODELS
ALL STEEL SUPER TOUGH PROTECT YOUR VALUABLE EQUIPMENT
MODELS INCLUDED
25 x 30
30 x 50
40 x 50
50 x 80
50 x 100
50 x 15
other models available
AMERICAN STEEL SPAN
800/547-8335

STEEL DEPOT
METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS
"The Name To Look For In Quality Steel Buildings"
1-800-541-0302
From 20 X 40 up to 200 X Unlimited
Lowest Prices X Highest Quality
From $3,650 Up
Also Lowest Price on Mini-Storage

KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS INC.
20/70
FREE CATALOGUE
1-859-745-0606
www.kstbuild.com

24' x 30' x 8'	$ 3,503
30' x 36' x 8'	$ 4,903
40' x 48' x 10'	$ 7,203
50' x 60' x 12'	$ 11,203
60' x 70' x 12'	$ 15,703
75' x 80' x 14'	$ 21,603

AMERICA'S BEST BUY
since 1986
FARM • CHURCH • SPORTS • HORSE • CAR • PLANE
ALL STEEL • ALL COLOR • 25/50 WARRANTY

Mobile Home Owners
Protect Your Home Now!

Insulated Roofing Systems
- Stops Roof Leaks
- Stops Roof Condensation
- Stops Roof Rumble
- Maintenance Free

Insulated Vinyl Siding
- Beautiful New Home Look
- Many Styles & Colors Available
- Adds Value to your Home
- FREE Window Shutters with Purchase

Vinyl Replacement Tilt-in Windows
- Easy to Clean
- Better Insulation

Lowers Heating & Cooling Bills
Guaranteed Lifetime Warranty
100% Financing — No Money Down — Affordable Payments
For a FREE No Obligation Estimate Call:

Mobile Home Exteriors
1-800-849-5715

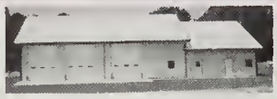
Want to buy an ad?
call 800.662.8835
x3077

Includes all Material, Erection, Freight, and Sales Tax...
NO HIDDEN EXTRAS!

$8,295 42'x48'x12'
$4,295 24'x36'x10'

Agri-Steel Structures
PO Box 1257 Woodstock, GA 30188
800-359-8613

AEC BUILDINGS



We'll beat any written quote.
We also erect buildings.

Metal Buildings, Pole Barns Components

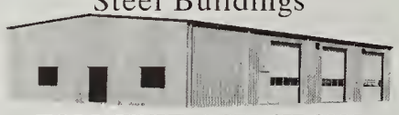
We Build all sizes
$2.30 S.F and up

All 26 gauge, 20 yr. warranty
Save money by building yourself
All bolt together framing

1-800-531-6575

Visit us at our website: www.aecbuildings.com

Advantage
Steel Buildings



TOLL FREE 1-877-657-8335
30x60x10 ~ $5448.00
40x60x12 ~ $6795.00
50x80x14 ~ $10793.00
80x150x16(ml) ~ $27293.00
Call today for price quote and literature.
Mini storage, all sizes!
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

POLE BUILDINGS
erected prices
STANDARD SHELL PRICES

24 x 32	$5,800
24 x 40	$6,900
30 x 40	$7,900
32 x 64	$12,900
40 x 80	$19,900

1-888-316-2290

LOFTS - GAMBREL

24 x 32	$10,200
24 x 40	$13,900
30 x 40	$15,000
32 x 64	$24,000

This 24 x 32 cabin with porch, dormers, 10 windows, 2 doors, railings, steps, 2 floors and crawl space erected on your site for $19,900 + frght

TIMBERLINE POST & BEAM BUILDINGS

Apex
Building Systems, Inc.

Toll Free: 877-275-APEX (2739)
Toll Free Fax: 877-275-2701

40' x 60' x 12'	$6,635.	50' x 100' x 12'	$12,385.
60' x 80' x 14'	$11,715.	100' x 150' x 14'	$27,950.

www.apexbuilding.com

TITAN STEEL STRUCTURES

Toll Free
1.866.262.1993

Custom Steel Buildings
All Sizes Available!

Commercial • Shop • Hangars • Church • Mini Storage

Best Quality & Lowest Prices!

Call For Free Quote!
Fast Friendly Service!

Mini Storage Specialists
titansteelstructures.com

FALL SPECIALS!
30 x 40 x 12 ..... $ 5,250
40 x 75 x 12 ..... $ 8,900
60 x 100 x 14 ..... $15,100

26 Ga. & 20 Yr. Warranty on Roof and Walls
Must Add Freight & Tax
Codes and Accessories May Effect Prices

REPLACE THE HIGH COST OF HEATING!

Hydro-Sil is a unique zone heating system that can save you hundreds of dollars in home heating costs by replacing inefficient ways of heating. It is clean, safe, healthful and inexpensive. Each room is thermostatically controlled for total room-by-room comfort and economy.

Never buy fuel — wood, oil, gas, kerosene — ever again!

Hydro-Sil heating works like this: Inside the heater case is a sealed copper tube filled with a harmless silicone fluid that will never spill, leak, boil, or freeze. It's permanent. You'll never run out. Running through the liquid is a variable watt hydroelectric element that is only being supplied a proportional amount of power on an as-needed basis. When Hydro-Sil is turned on, the silicone liquid is quickly heated, and with its heat retention qualities, continues to heat after the Hydro element shuts off. Hydro-Sil's room-by-room technology greatly increases energy savings and comfort.

LIFETIME WARRANTY!

YOUR BENEFITS WITH HYDRO-SIL:

- Slosh heating cost
- No service calls
- Sofe, complete peoce of mind
- Clean, no fumes, environmentolly sofe
- U.L. listed
- Preossembled
- No furnoces, ducts, or chimneys
- Portable (110V) or permanent (220V)
- Whole house heoting or single room

HERE'S WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING...

- **Consumer Digest-** "Buying Guide rates Hydro-sil ***'Best Buy' for heating***— a product that offers outstanding value for its price."
- **Grant M.-** "With no insulation or storm windows, ***I saved 51% when changing from oil to Hydro-sil.***"
- **F. Smalley-** "***A company that advertises the truth*** saved me 50% compared to my gas heat. I found it hard to believe until my power bill came. Thanks a million!"

ORDER TODAY!

220 Volt Permanent	Approx. Area to Heat	Discount Price	Quantity
8' 2000 watts	300 sq. ft.	$279	
6' 1500 watts	250 sq. ft.	$249	
5' 1250 watts	200 sq. ft.	$229	
4' 1000 watts	150 sq. ft.	$209	
3' 750 watts	100 sq. ft.	$189	
2' 500 watts	75 sq. ft.	$169	
Thermostats	Call for options.		

110 Volt Portables (Thermastat Included)	Discount Price	Quantity
5' Hydro-Max 750-1500 watts	$219	
4' Convector – Dual watt	$179	
3' 750 watts – Silicone	$179	
$15.00 shipping per heater	$ _____	
Total Amount	$ _____	

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
MasterCard or Visa Account Information:
Acct # _____
Expiration Date _____

Order today or contact us for more information
PHONE • WEB • MAIL
Check • MasterCard • Visa
1-800-627-9276
Visit our secure web site at
www.hydrosil.com
Hydro-Sil, P.O. Box, 662,
Fort Mill, SC 29715

YOU may win $50 when you find the value of ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

We are offering a $50 prize to some lucky reader who sends us the correct answer to this puzzle. Send your entry by Feb. 15. Correct entries will be numbered as received, and the winning entry chosen at random by computer. The winner's name and puzzle answer will be published in our April issue.

E-mail or mail your answer to:

carolina.country@ncemcs.com OR

JOYNER'S CORNER
901 Greenwood Drive
Hendersonville NC 28791

Include your mailing address, residence telephone number, and, if you are willing, your age bracket (teens, twenties, seventies, nineties). Only one entry will be accepted for your phone number. More than one entry will void all entries for this number. Your age bracket will prove our point that all ages enjoy puzzles. We've had entries from readers as young as 11.

There are 10 different letters in ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, and we have given each different letter a different value from zero through nine. In addition we have made up a list of 10 words, using letters from ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, and have summed up the value of the letters in each word.

For example, if T=1, O=2, A=3, and L=0, the value of TOTAL would be 7 (1+2+1+3+0). It isn't.

Your challenge is to find the value of ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. One way is to find the value of each letter and add them up.

CLEAR=21 COVER=27 EAT=10 ELATE=12 PRACTICE=35
PRIOR=36 PROVE=30 REAL=18 TEAR=19 VICE=14

E + L + E + C + T + R + I + C + C + O + O + P + E + R + A + T + I + V + E
__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__+__ = ____

answers on page 42

Oh, Kay!

We've never been to Florida in the winter before.

Louise said it was 28 degrees in Orlando the other night.

—in Orlando, that's like freezing!

MATCH BOXES

7	8	5	1	6	0	2	9	3	4
A	B	C	I	L	M	O	P	R	Y

Match the boxes above with the boxes below to create two multiplication problems. Solve the problems and write your answers in the box tops. Then match boxes again to find the name of a North Carolina county and its county seat in your answers.

O	Y	O	L	C	R	B

X

4
Y

Y	R	A	Y	I	I	L

X

2
0

haiku

**an unrhymed verse form of Japanese origin having three lines containing usu. 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively ...Webster's Ninth*

Meter readers make
a great deal more money than
meter writers do.
- Cy Nical

Copyright© 2004 by Charles Joyner

marketPLACE
HOME AND BUILDING

Premier Building Systems
1-800-882-5150 • (770)239-2085

The more you look, the better we look!

Winter Sale-All Prices Reduced!

30x40x10. . . . . $4,825
50x60x12. . . . . $7,995
60x100x12. . . . . $13,359
100x150x16 . . . . . $38,495

Does not include freight, tax, any construction cost. *Codes may affect prices. All sizes avail.

26 ga., 20 yr. warranty roof & walls

Mini Warehouses also available
20 x 100 x 8'6"..$6,595

Custom quality steel buildings at discount prices!
www.premierbuildings.com

MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?

The Mobile Home Roofover Specialist Can Help!
PERMA-ROOF® from Southern Builders

LIFETIME WARRANTY • COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL ROOF
IMPROVED APPEARNCE • 3" INSULATION
• SAVE MONEY ON UTILITIES • ONE FOOT OVERHANG

20 YEARS TWENTY YEARS OF QUALITY & SERVICE!
FREE ESTIMATE!

www.roofover.com
1-800-633-8969

Visit our Web site
www.carolinacountry.com

20' x 24' x 8'
$2,123
We Ship Anywhere In The USA!!! 10,000 Sizes, All Bolt-Together All Steel Buildings & Homes. Call Today For A Price Quote And A Brochure.
HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS®
800-643-5555
heritagebuildings.com

CHEAP STEEL BUILDINGS!
1-800-222-6335
www.clearancebuildings.com

BUILT TO LAST AND PRICED TO SELL...

Compare our everyday price for our 25'x40' building:
$4,990 FRONT END OPTIONAL
• EASY DO IT YOURSELF
• 30-YEAR WARRANTY
• 100% USEABLE SPACE
• Many sizes, shapes & applications! • Tough, rugged building – lasts! • Heavy gauge Galvalume steel • Easy to finish trussless interior • Totally maintenance free!
PIONEER STEEL BUILDINGS GO FACTORY DIRECT 800-668-5422
www.pioneersteel.com 23 YEARS OF REPUTATION BUILT OF STEEL

JOYNER'S CORNER ANSWERS

MATCHBOXES

2426538 X 4 = 9706152

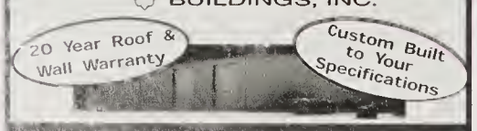
OYOLCRB X Y = PAMLICO

4374116 X 2 = 8748232

YRAVILL X O = BAYBORO

QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS AT DISCOUNT PRICES!

SteelCo BUILDINGS, INC.



FREE QUOTE! Call Toll FREE
1-866-728-9973
WWW.STEELCOBUILDINGS.NET

Pool Time is Family Time!

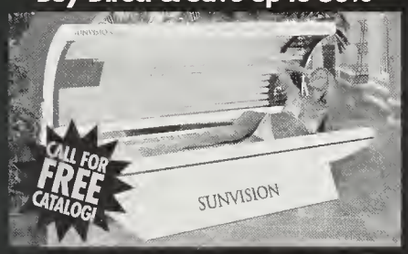
THE MILLENIUM
31' x 19' O.D. FAMILY SIZE POOL
Includes: sundeck, fence, filter & ladders!
ONLY! $888*
*Intallation optional/extra shipping & handling extra

**w/ purchase of Ambassador Pool only
No Payment till' June 04!**
100% Financing!
-W.A.C.
Limited Area

HOMEOWNERS CALL NOW! 24/7!
FREE HOME SURVEY!
1-800-761-1064 ext.1
www.tropical-pools.com
Tropical Pools

TAN AT HOME!

Buy Direct & Save up to 50%



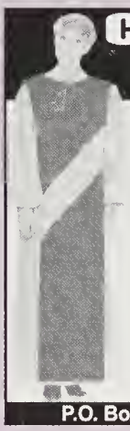
HOME DELIVERY • FINANCING AVAILABLE

1.800.842.1324

www.mag.etstan.com

CHOIR ROBES

EXPERT TAILORING $31.95 & UP



Finest fabrics including permanent press and wash & wear. Superior quality. Free color catalog and fabric swatches on request.

GUARANTEED SATISFACTION

Call Toll Free:

1-800-826-8612

REGENCY CAP & GOWN CO.

www.rcgown.com

P.O. Box 8988-N Jacksonville, FL 32211

LOWEST COST

Term Life Insurance

Issue ages through 90

AGE	$100,000	$250,000
45	9.63	17.33
55	14.49	29.48
65	29.70	67.50

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users

RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.

(800) 933-6354

AGL Life Assurance Company Form No. TC-191

Wells Fargo Reverse Mortgage

WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE

A Special Government Program for Seniors – Must be 62 years of age and own your home free and clear or have a small outstanding mortgage balance.

- Tax-Free Cash Advances
- No Payments on the Debt
- Funds plus any accrued interest not due until you sell or vacate your property

Call Joan Dawson for a free brochure: 1-800-853-1055

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. is licensed by the Department of Corporations under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act, originates mortgage loans in New Hampshire under License No. 5757 MB for first mortgages and License No. 5768 MHL for second mortgages and is a New Jersey Department of Banking Licensed Mortgage Banker. © 2002 Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. All Rights Reserved #711

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

LYRIC CHOIR GOWNS

"Professionally tailored gowns of lasting beauty."

FREE catalog and fabric samples.

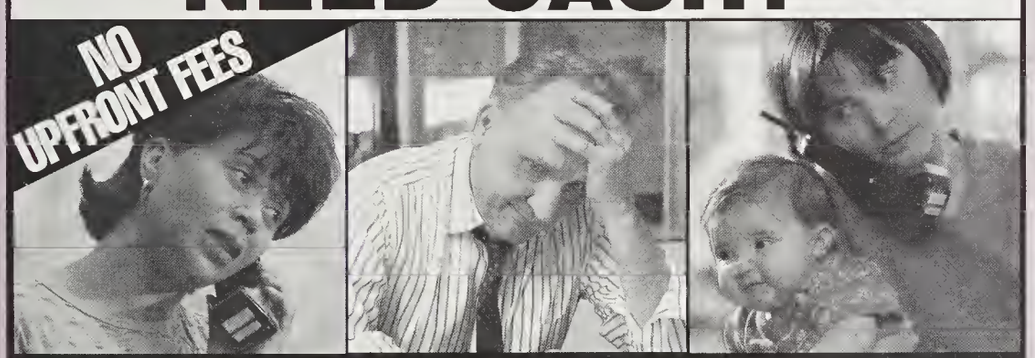
LYRIC CHOIR GOWN CO.

P.O. Box 16954-RP
Jacksonville, FL 32245

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-847-7977

www.lyricrobes.com

NEED CASH?



QUICK SOLUTION.

Homeowners, Consolidate Debt Now!

- ✓ SINGLE/MULTI FAMILY HOMES
- ✓ SLOW CREDIT PROGRAMS
- ✓ RURAL PROPERTY OK
- ✓ NO INCOME VERIFICATION OK
- ✓ DOUBLEWIDES W/LAND
- ✓ FORMER BANKRUPTCY OK

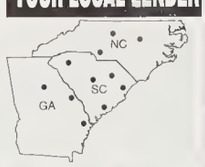
LOAN EXAMPLES

Loan Amt*	Term*	PMT*	RATE*	APR*
$60,000	30 YR. FIXED	$340.67	5.50%	5.82%
$100,000	30 YR. FIXED	$559.97	5.37%	5.67%
$150,000	30 YR. FIXED	$839.96	5.37%	5.57%
$200,000	30 YR. FIXED	$1,119.94	5.37%	5.57%

*Conforming rates for rate/term refinance transactions. Rates are FIXED! We also have great Arm & Jumbo loans. Call for terms on Non conforming Fixed, ARM, Mtg. Homes, Slow Credit, No Income Verification, Bankruptcy, etc.

Lowest Rates Guaranteed!

YOUR LOCAL LENDER



Go to the Source

EquiSource HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Applications Taken 24 Hours a Day 7 Days A Week!

1-800-794-1738

Apply online at www.equisourcehomemtg.com

FABRAL METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY LLC

Horse Barns • Garages
Storage Buildings • Hay Barns

$6795*
Galvanized/Enclosed
30x50x10

N.C. Lic.#52845

30-Year Ceramic-based paint, colors and other sizes available.

100% Financing WAC

East of I-95 add $400

*Price Includes: Materials, delivery, construction, a 10' or 12' sliding door, factory pre-engineered trusses, one walk-in door with key, 6 evelights and One-Year Warranty on labor and materials.

- Fully Insured for your protection
- Visa, Mastercard, AmEx accepted
- Call for a Free Brochure & Estimate
- Codes may affect prices

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-noon CST

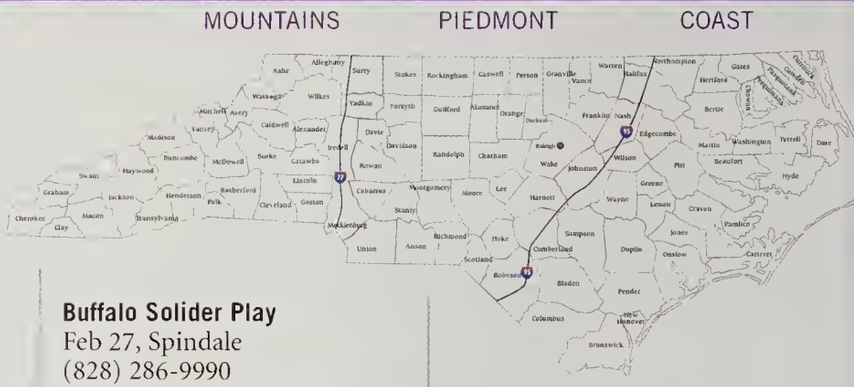
1-888-427-BARN (2276)

Fax (615) 325-2701

www.nationalbarn.com

nbced@mindspring.com

February EVENTS



MOUNTAINS

(west of I-77)

Mountain Music
Fridays, Old Fort
(828) 652-3330

"American Big Band"
Feb 7, Wilkesboro
(336) 838-6277

Fabulous Jazz
Feb 7, Waynesville
(800) 491-6803
www.haywoodarts.org

Broadway Center Stage
Feb 12, Jefferson
(336) 246-2787

"On Golden Pond"
Feb 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29
N. Wilkesboro
(336) 838-7259

Kids Play About Swans
Feb 25, Spindale
(828) 286-9990
www.FoundationShows.org

Adams Duo Concert
Feb 27, Jefferson
(336) 246-2787

"A Few Good Men...Dancing"
Feb 27, Yanceyville
(336) 694-4591

Wartime posters can be viewed at "Powerful Persuaders: World War II Posters," an exhibit at the Charlotte Museum of History running through September 1. Call (704) 568-1774 or visit www.charlottemuseum.org.

Buffalo Solider Play
Feb 27, Spindale
(828) 286-9990
www.FoundationShows.org

PIEDMONT

(east of I-77 & west of I-95)

"Ragtime" Musical
Through Feb 22, Fayetteville
(910) 323-4234
www.cfrt.org

African-American Lives
Saturdays, Raleigh
(919) 715-0200
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

"The Laramie Project"
Feb 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, Salisbury
(704) 633-5471

Frank Sinatra Tribute
Feb 6, Durham
(919) 560-3030

Bluegrass Trio
Feb 8, Raleigh
(919) 715-0200
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

"Kiss Me Kate
Feb 16, Durham
(919) 684-4444

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Feb 20-21, Salisbury
(704) 633-5471

Choral Society Concert
Feb. 20-21, Durham
(919) 733-2750

Native American Pow Wow
Feb 21, Durham
(919) 286-3366

Folk Art Show
Feb 21-22, Pittsboro
(919) 542-4000
www.fearrington.com

Revolutionary Re-Enactment
Feb 21-22, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Mountain Chamber Music
Feb 22, Durham
(919) 493-5451

Big Band Revue
Feb 25, Winston-Salem
(336) 721-1945
www.inthemoodlive.com

Longhorn Rodeo
Feb 27-28, Winston-Salem
(336) 725-5635
www.ljvm.com

African Cultural Day
Feb 28, Winston-Salem
(336) 767-6730

COAST

(west of I-95)

Ballet/Jazz Performance
Jan 29-Feb 3, Greenville
(252) 328-6829

Wildlife Decoy Festival
Jan 30-Feb 1, Washington
(252) 946-2897

"Shakespeare In Love"
Feb 3, New Bern
(252) 514-4936

Jazz Festival
Feb 5-7, Wilmington
(800) 732-3643

Boat Show
Feb 6-8, Williamston
(252) 321-4287

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Now SHOWING

MOUNTAINS

Air & Space Images
Through Feb 8, Asheville
Asheville Art Museum
(828) 253-3227
www.ashevilleart.org

Youth Art
Feb 25-April 17, Jefferson
(336) 246-ARTS
www.ashecountyarts.org

Coach Shelton Exhibit
Through March 1, Mount Airy
Mount Airy Museum of Regional History
(336) 786-4478
www.northcarolinamuseum.org

Dinosaur Eggs
Through May 16, Gastonia
Schiele Museum
(704) 866-6909
www.schielemuseum.org

PIEDMONT

"Artful Teapot"
Jan. 31- May 30, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2009
www.mintmuseum.org

African-American Inventors
Feb 2-March 31, Winston-Salem
SciWorks
(336) 767-6730
www.sciworks.org

"Top Speed"
Through Feb 6, Charlotte
Discovery Place
(704) 372-6261
www.discoveryplace.org

"26 Contraptions, A-Z"
Feb 7-May 31, Durham
Museum of Life and Science
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

Mexican Tomb Figures
Feb 27-May 22, Winston-Salem
Museum of Anthropology
(336) 758-5282

David Davenport Art
Through March 4, Fayetteville
Fayetteville Museum of Art
(910) 485-5121

"Defying Gravity"
Through March 7, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art
(919) 839-6262
www.ncartmuseum.org

Colored Pencil Art
Through March 31, Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill Museum
(919) 967-1400
www.chapelhillmuseum.org

"Soaring Symbols: Eagles"
Through April 4, Charlotte
Charlotte Museum of History
(704) 568-1774
www.charlottemuseum.org

Titanic Artifacts
Through April 18, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences
(919) 733-7450
www.naturalsciences.org

World War II Posters
Through Sept 1, Charlotte
Museum of History
(704) 568-1774
www.charlottemuseum.org

COAST

Jim Lee Photography
Feb 2-24, Manteo
(252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

Scrimshaw Exhibit
Through April 18, Beaufort
N.C. Maritime Museum
(252) 728-7317
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime

"Politics In Action"
Through Nov 28, Wilmington
Cape Fear Museum
(910) 341-4350
www.capefearmuseum.com

Garden Show
Feb 6-7, Wilmington
(910) 763-6739

Victorian Valentine Workshop
Feb 7, Bath
(252) 923-3971
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/bath/bath.htm

Folk Music
Feb 7, Beaufort
(252) 728-5991
www.downeastfolkarts.org

Gala With Cruise Theme
Feb 7, New Bern
(252) 249-1904

Chocolate Festival
Feb 7, Morehead City
(252) 504-2203

Film Festival
Feb 7, Manteo
Free (252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

Valentine Party
Feb 8, Beaufort
(252) 728-5225
www.historicbeaufort.com

Frank Sinatra Tribute
Feb 12, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"South African Slide Lecture"
Feb 13, Beaufort
(252) 728-7317
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/maritime/

Civil War Festival
Feb 14, 15, Manteo
(252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

Poet Glenis Redmond
Feb 19, Manteo
(252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

Greensboro Sit-In Documentary
Feb 19, New Bern
(252) 514-4936

Art Lecture
Feb 26, Manteo
(252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

Agatha Christie Play
Feb 26-29, Goldsboro
(919) 736-3200

ooking for
something different?

Duplin County

- Museums in 19th-century homes
- Restored plantation home tours
- Wine tasting, tours, dinner shows
- Great restaurants & lodging
- Camping and golf available
- Breathing Room!

(800) 755-1755 or (910) 296-2180
tour@duplintourism.org
www.duplintourism.org

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for April: Feb. 23 | Deadline for May: March 25.

It's Easy to Submit Listings on Our Web Site!
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click on "See NC" to add your event to both the magazine and our Web site.

Or Submit Listings by Mail, Fax or E-Mail
Please include title, date(s), location, phone number and/or Web site url. Photos (300 dpi or hard copies) are welcome. Send to:
CAROLINA COMPASS, P.O. BOX 27306, RALEIGH, NC 27611
FAX: 919-878-3970 | E-MAIL: CAROLINA.COUNTRY@NCEMCS.COM

The Toughest Glue On Planet Earth

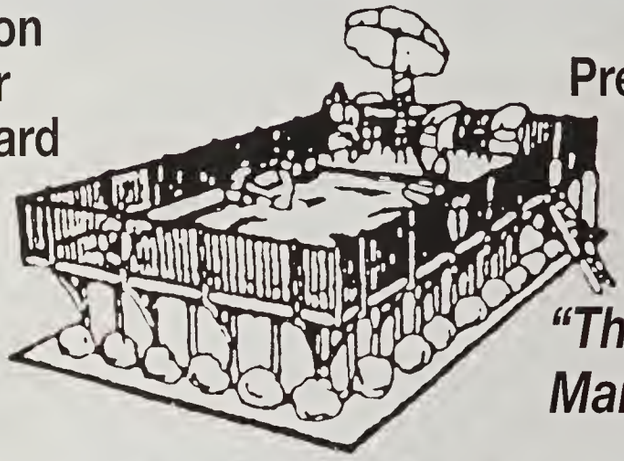
Bonds: Wood, Stone, Metal, Ceramic, & More!

REQUEST YOUR FREE INFORMATION KIT!
www.gorillaglue.com
1-800-966-3458

SWIMMING POOLS

NO EXPENSIVE CHEMICALS • NO CLEANING, FULLY AUTOMATIC • IT RUNS ITSELF

Vacation In Your Backyard



Pre-Season Specials

"The Lazy Man's Pool"

FREE
- Ionization (No Chemicals)
- Auto Timer
- Auto Vacuum
- Lights in Pool
- Pool Alarm
- Winter Cover
- Pool Heater
- Complete Installation ($2,500 Value with Purchase of St. Croix Model)

- Pre-Season Savings - Easy Financing (Pool & appointment subject to credit approval)
- Call Now FREE yard survey (Must be property owners, in your name only

FROM $769.00 While Supplies Last

Aquarian Pools • 1-800-672-0561 • 24 Hrs. 7 days

WHOLESALE VEGETABLE PLANTS

Tomato, pepper, cabbage, eggplant, onion, kale, collard, sweet potato, broccoli, and cauliflower. Hybrid and standard varieties. Write for FREE catalogue.

EVANS PLANT COMPANY
Box 1649, Department 19, Tifton, GA 31793
Phone/Fax 1-229-382-1337
e-mail:evansplant@friendlycity.net
www.evansvegetableplants.com

AMERICA'S OLDEST & LARGEST RARE BREED HATCHERY
FREE COLOR CATALOG

Over 140 varieties of Baby Chicks, Bantams, Turkeys, Guineas, Peafowl, Game Birds, Waterfowl. Also Eggs, Incubators, Books, Equipment, and Medications.

Call 1-800-456-3280 (24 Hours A Day)

Murray McMurray Hatchery, C 130, Webster City, Iowa 50595-0458
www.mcmurrayhatchery.com

FREE POULTRY CATALOG

All Kinds of Poultry in color. Over 100 varieties of Baby Chicks, Exotic Rare Breeds, Fighting Games, Guineas, Bantams, Ducks. Shipped safely to your local Post Office.

MARTI POULTRY FARM
Box 27-35, Windsor, Missouri 65360
Phone: 660-647-3156 Fax: 660-647-3999 Website: www.martipoultry.com
MasterCard, Visa & Discover.

NURSERY STOCK & SEED

GROW HALF DOLLAR SIZE MUSCADINES & BLACKBERRIES, FREE CATALOG.
200 varieties fruit, nut trees, vines & berries.
1-800-733-0324. **ISON'S NURSERY,**
Brooks, Georgia 30205

Visit our Web site
www.carolinacountry.com

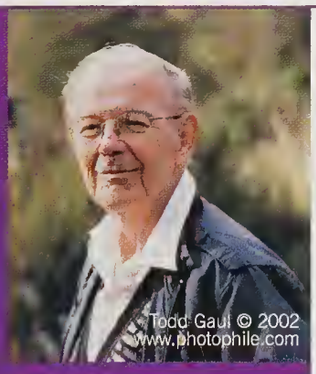
Southland Log Home Living Is Just Plain Fun!

Whether it's getting out the cane poles or picking figs for preserves, there is something magical about Southland Log Home living. You can almost smell the pecan pie warming in the oven just by looking at its down-home beauty. Have fun. Design one for yourself! Send us a rough sketch or photo of a home you like, plus a floorplan, and we'll send you a free detailed materials and price list!

To order your beautiful Southland Log Homes Planning Guide, call toll-free **1-888-883-8884** or visit www.southlandloghomes.com or send $8.50 with this coupon and your name, address and phone number to:
Southland Log Homes
P.O. Box 1668
Irmo, SC 29063-1668

Two NC locations to serve you:
Charlotte at I-77 at Exit #36
Greensboro at I- 40/85 at Exit # 135

Southland Log Homes®



GARDENING FOCUS

Container gardening

From the smallest area to an expansive landscape, containers of plants add wonderful accents. Plant containers come in a wide range of sizes. Terracotta and concrete planters have been commonly used for years, but they have problems with freezing during the winter. This generally is due to moisture, which can be combated by using the newer frost-proof terracottas. A non-harmful chemical Smart Stuff, penetrates porous surfaces and keeps moisture out.

Plastic containers are more durable than ceramics and the lighter weight makes them ideal to move from place – as often helpful for sun-loving and shade-loving plants. Glazed ceramic containers are very attractive and shed water unlike other ceramic containers. When selecting a plant for a container, consider how much sun the plant will be exposed to. Plants dry out much quicker in a container. Also consider heat: will the plant be against a wall that gets heat all day? We now have potting soil which contains moisture-holding granules. The granules do not eliminate the need for watering, but help when conditions are extremely dry.

It's only a matter of a couple of months before spring beckons gardeners to the joy of outdoors. Now is the time to plant evergreen and deciduous flowering shrubs. The sooner they are planted, the better chance for their survival and for good healthy growth.

February is a good time to prune trees bearing apples, peaches, plums, and other fruits. Bare-root roses do well if planted now. Potted roses may be planted at anytime.

On pruning

Pruning increases plant vigor because the water supply, minerals and any manufactured food go to a more select number of growing points.

Camellia japonicas may need some pruning to produce well-shaped plants. This is accomplished before they begin blooming. Camellia sasanqua is in the same family as C. japonica, but produces blooms more in clusters than single blooms. It's advisable to prune back quite a bit after it has finished flowering. They usually set flower buds in June, so one pruning of sasanquas is enough. Pruning later in the summer has the risk of cutting off flower buds. This plant makes a showy hedge; but keep in mind that late pruning will reduce the flower crop.

Azaleas require very little pruning; but light pruning gives a better shaped plant and more attractive blooms. This is particularly true of dwarf azaleas. Tall-growing types such as Formosa may require more pruning to keep them in bounds. Right after blooms have started turning brown is the best time to prune. Be sure to remove dead or injured branches when shaping or heading back plants.

JapaneseYew (Podocarpus) is among the few evergreens that attain such a delicate form. It has a tendency to send out long upright branches that need heading back to keep the plant full. Side branches also can be pruned to encourage column-type growth.

Slugging the slugs

It soon will be time to stock up on insect and weed control products. Slugs, like snails, are Mollusks, not insects. They have soft bodies, about 1" to 2" long, covered with mucous membrane. They can live for several years, overwintering in the soil and surfacing in early spring. As they slither across the garden, they leave a tell-tale slimy trail behind. During the day, they hide in dark, moist places, often under rocks and garden debris. At night they look for food – lettuce and other green vegetables with leaves near the ground are favorites. Leafy ornamental plant such as hosta can be destroyed. Natural enemies are robins, ducks, and other birds, as well as ground beetles, turtles, and snakes.

Early daylily

Perennially yours

Most perennials like fertile, loose, well-drained soil that contains organic matter. These listed are among the best, easiest, and most popular perennials. For sunny spots: daylilies, black-eyed Susan, wild indigo (Baptisia australis), bloody cranesbill, and ornamental grasses. For shady spots: hostas, ferns, Lenten roses, variega, and fragrant Solomon's seal.

Ground covers

Low-growing, spreading plants create an overall united appearance between larger plants. Groundcovers very often can be used where grass will not survive. They are useful where no other plant is suitable because of vertical space limitations. Groundcovers add low horizontal lines to complement the severe lines of modern buildings. Their solid and stable appearance adds unity and stability to the total planting.

For more February gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com

Consider cleaning your duct system

Some families can benefit tremendously from having furnace ducts cleaned and other families will notice no significant difference. If someone in your family has allergies, the first place to check is with your family physician before making a decision to have ducts cleaned. If poor indoor air quality or molds are suspected, then having the ducts professionally inspected and cleaned may help.

Your duct system may be driving up your utility bills and making your house uncomfortable even if it is perfectly clean. Many studies have shown the ducts in the typical home are leaky. When you look at a sheet metal duct system, there are many unsealed joints where one duct slips into another. If you measure around all those joints, it would total many feet.

The key to an efficient heating and cooling (HVAC) system is getting the heated and cooled air to rooms where you need it. If a percentage of the conditioned air is lost in the basement, utility room or inside the walls, you will have uneven temperatures in your home. This often causes you to set the thermostat higher during winter or lower during summer to stay comfortable.

When your furnace or heat pump is running, hold your hand near each ductwork joint to feel for leaky spots. Some spots will be visually obvious. Wrapping duct tape is a temporary fix, but it won't hold up for years. Aluminum tape is more durable and long lasting. Professional contractors use a thick gray sealer compound (Miracle Duct Sealer) that you can spread over the joints for a permanent seal.

Duct cleaning can also improve the efficiency of your furnace and air conditioner. Complete "duct cleaning" is more than just removing dust from inside the ducts. It also requires cleaning the blower, heat exchangers, cooling coils, and condensation pan. When these elements are clean, air flows with less resistance through the entire system and the heat transfer from coils and heat exchangers surfaces is more efficient.

All ducts are going to accumulate some dust over time. This generally is not a problem that requires cleaning unless your family experiences health problems. A duct cleaning company can inspect the furnace ducts to show you how dirty they are. This is often done using a video camera.

Write for (instantly download-www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 733 - list of 550 certified duct cleaning companies across the country, descriptions of various cleaning methods and a checklist for selecting a duct cleaning company. Please include $3.00 and a business-size SASE.

Send to:

James Dulley,
Carolina Country,
6906 Royalgreen Dr.,
Cincinnati, OH 45244

By James Dulley

Cleaning methods include using a portable vacuum unit.

If mold is present anywhere in the entire duct system, you should have the ducts cleaned. It is sometimes difficult to determine if ducts contain just dust or also mold. To be certain, a lab can check it for you. This sometimes is as simple as touching a piece of tape on an inside duct surface and sending it to the lab to be analyzed. Check with your local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or health department office for lab locations.

There are several methods to clean ducts. One method is using an extremely powerful vacuum outdoors in a truck. A long hose is run to the furnace area and attached to the ducts. From the rooms, the dust inside the ducts is knocked loose with mechanical brushes, air jet brushes or air snakes. This eliminates any possibility of the dust leaking from the equipment into your house.

Another excellent method uses a smaller vacuum unit that is wheeled into your house near the furnace instead of being in a truck outdoors. Check with the contractor to make sure it has a high-efficiency particulate airborne (HEPA) exhaust filter so the dust from the ducts does not get into the room air. A third method uses a rotating brush attached to the end of a vacuum nozzle. The brush/nozzle, along with a video camera, is run through each of the ducts.

When it comes to duct cleaning, don't just shop for price. There are actual differences in the quality of the work performed. A poor duct cleaning job can actually be worse than none at all because it stirs up the dust in the ducts. Look for companies in which their cleaning technicians have National Air Duct Cleaners Association certification.

Before you sign a contract, ask for visual evidence that the ducts need to be cleaned. Ask the contractor how he plans to clean the other key components such as heat exchangers, coils and pans. If one component is left unclean, it may recontaminate the entire system. Ask for a full duct-length visual inspection after the job is done, preferably with a camera in the ducts.

Copyright © 2003 by James Dulley, a syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Business Opportunities

NEW! GRDW EXPENSIVE PLANTS, 2000% Profit, Earn to $50,000, Free Information Growbiz, Box 3738-NC2, Cookeville, TN 38502 – www.growbiz-abco.com

INVENTORS: We help submit ideas to industry. Patent services. 888-439-IDEA.

PUBLISH YOUR BDOK with Ivy House Publishing Group. All subjects considered. Write: 5122 Bur Oak Circle, Dept. CC, Raleigh, NC 27612, 800-948-2786, www.ivyhousebooks.com

EVERYTHING YOU NEED to start you own screen printing business. V/G condition - $3500. www.salisbury.net/screenprinting

NEW BUSINESS W/5 acres in Waynesville. Small home, two greenhouses, nursery area. $229,000 – 30% down. 931-484-8636.

AMAZING NEW HOME heats and cools itself. Builder/Dealers wanted. 919-556-0177. www.enertia.com

FREE SAWMILL NEWS subscription - Buy – Sell used sawmill, forestry equipment and woodworking machinery. Call Cooks Saw, 800-473-4804, http://marketplace.cookssaw.com

Mortgage

ARE YDU RECEIVING MDRTGAGE PAYMENTS? Cash for your note. Free quotations 800-269-9510.

Vacation Rental

VACATIDN CABIN in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Real chink logs, jacuzzi, fireplace and covered porch. No smoking – No pets. 828-627-6037. www.treasurecovecabins.com

"CABIN FEVER!" Cozy vacation cabin at Twin Harbor Resort on Lake Tillery, near Morrow Mountain State and Uwharrie National Parks. $85.00 nightly, multiple night discounts. Open year-round. 919-542-1958. www.getcabinfever.com

SMOKY MOUNTAINS -GATLINBURG, TN – Love and memories begin here in our chalet. For details call today toll free 1-866-316-3255 – or www.HillsHideaway.com

EMERALD ISLE, NC - CAMP OCEAN FDREST Campground. Camping next to the ocean. Call for rates and reservations 252-354-3454. www.campoceanforest.com

PIGEDN FDRGE, TN. CONDO RENTAL. Fully furnished with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, living room, hot tub. Call 336-657-3025 or 336-657-3528.

BEACH HOUSE, Cherry Grove, SC. 4BR/2B, sleeps 14. 828-478-3208.

MILL HDUSE LODGE – Hendersonville/Flat Rock, NC. Tranquil lake setting, heated O/D pool, cable, a/c, 1,2, 3 bedrooms w/kitchen. Daily-weekly-monthly. Linens furnished. 1-800-736-6073. www.millhouselodge.com

For Sale

USED PORTABLE SAWMILLS! Buy/Sell. Call Sawmill Exchange 800-459-2148, 205-969-0007, USA & Canada, www.sawmillexchange.com

BAPTISTRY PAINTINGS – Jordan River scenes. Customed Painted. Christian Arts, Goldsboro, NC 919-736-4166. www.christian-artworks.com

CHURCH PEWS, pulpits, chairs for sale, new and used. Easy payment plan available. Also cushions, stained glass, steeples. www.pews.info 800-383-5903.

OLD TIMEY APPLE TREES. Pinnacle, NC 27043. 336-351-5326 before 8 p.m.

ATTENTIDN SMALL BUSINESSES – Get caps, shirts and jackets embroidered with your name and logo. No minimum amount. Greene's Digitizing & Embroidery, Inc. – 704-485-8631, Fax 704-485-8632.

BERTIE CDUNTY PEANUTS - Raw, Roasted, Gifts; free brochure. Toll Free 1-877-794-2138. www.pnuts.net

R/V CABINS AND HUNTING LDDGES, Delivery available. Cypress siding. T&G walls. Many options. 904-845-4777. www.realwoodhomes.com

APPLE TREES – DLD SOUTHERN VARIETIES and modern disease resistant varieties; Free catalog; custom grafting and shipping available. Century Farm Orchards, David C.Vernon, Reidsville, NC 336-349-5709 or dcvernon@netpath.net

50 DENIM QUILT PATTERNS. Sew old jeans into quilts. Free information: PO Box 764-B, Rye, CO 81069.

TRUCK STDP – 10 acres of land. Asking $875,000. Call 252-813-2465.

MOON FLDWERS large white trumpet shaped blossoms, perennials 20 seeds $4.00 or Orange Butterfly weeds 8 seeds $3.00. Send S.A.S.E. to Flowers Forever, PO Box 43, Interlochen, MI 49643.

WANTED 20-200 ACRES within 60 minute drive to Norfolk, VA. Road frontage required. Cash, 757-224-4566.

Meat Processing Supplies

HOME BUTCHER SUPPLIES: Catalog or on-line shopping – 770-535-7381. www.home-processor.com

Insurance

AFFDRDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE – Major Medical with small co-pays for doctor visits, drugs and routine physicals. Also available – long term care, life and medicare supplements (Plan F - $78.00 up). 800-470-4415.

Miscellaneous

SUSPENDERS WITH PATENTED "No-Slip Clip". Free Catalog 800-700-4515 – www.suspenders.com

PLAY GOSPEL SONGS BY EAR! 10 lessons $12.95. "Learn Gospel Music." Chording, runs, fills - $12.95. Both $24. Davidsons, 6727C Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

PUT YDUR OLD HDME MOVIES or slides on videotape. 888-609-9778 or visit my website – www.transferguy.com

PROTECT YDUR SEPTIC SYSTEM for as little as 6 cents per day. Natural, Non-chemical. Call for FREE brochure. 800-599.9980. www.pro-agdirect.com

NATURCLEAN PDND CLARIFIER™. "Nature's way to clear ponds". Natural, Non-chemical. Call for FREE brochure. 800-599-9980. www.pro-agdirect.com

WANTED 1970 – 1971 PLYMOUTH BARRACUDA, Convertible – Good or Restored condition. Cash paid. 434-525-3854.

IS RETIREMENT NEAR? Increase your 401-K principle over 14% the first year! For free video call 704-546-2119.

The N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the services and products advertised. Readers are advised to understand fully any agreement or purchase they make.

CAROLINA COUNTRY CLASSIFIED ADS

I am enclosing $ _____ in payment for the classified ad written below.

Run this ad for _____ month (s).

Preferred heading/category:

If you have questions about my ad, call

_____ (phone).

_____ (name).

Carolina Country classified ads cost $2 per word, prepaid. Minimum ad $20. Maximum 75 words. Same ad on Web site is $20 per month. Send ad and payment to Classifieds, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. For more information, or to pay by credit card, see our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com and click on the Advertising section. **Deadline: 25th of the month, 5 weeks before issue date.**

Marinated Beef Tenderloin

1 cup soy sauce
¾ cup beef broth
½ cup olive or vegetable oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar or cider vinegar
4 to 5 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
1 teaspoon dried thyme
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1 bay leaf
1 whole beef tenderloin (3 ½ to 4 pounds)

In a bowl, combine the first nine ingredients; mix well. Cover and refrigerate 1 cup for basting. Pour remaining marinade into a large resealable plastic bag; add bay leaf and tenderloin. Seal bag and turn to coat; refrigerate overnight.

Drain and discard marinade and bay leaf. Place tenderloin on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, at 425 degrees for 55-60 minutes or until meat reaches desired doneness (for rare, a meat thermometer should read 140 degrees; medium, 160 degrees; well-done, 170 degrees), basting often with reserved marinade. Let stand for 15 minutes before slicing.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

Sweetheart Trifle

1 package (18 ¼ ounces) chocolate cake mix
1 package (10 ounces) peanut butter chips
4 ¼ cups cold milk, divided
½ cup whipping cream
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 packages (5.9 ounces each) instant chocolate pudding mix
1 carton (12 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
4 Nestle Crunch candy bars (1.55 ounces each), crumbled

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour the batter into a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

In a heavy saucepan, combine chips, ¼ cup milk and cream. Cook and stir over low heat until chips are melted. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Cool to room temperature. Place the remaining milk in a mixing bowl; beat in pudding mixes on low speed for 2 minutes.

To assemble, crumble half of the cake into a 4-quart trifle bowl or large bowl. Layer with half of the peanut butter sauce, pudding, whipped topping and candy bars; repeat layers. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours before serving.

Yield: 12-15 servings.

Loaded Mashed Potatoes

5 pounds potatoes, peeled and cubed
¾ cup sour cream
½ cup milk
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
Salt and pepper to taste
3 cups (12 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese blend, divided
½ pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
3 green onions, sliced

Place potatoes in a Dutch oven and cover with water; bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until tender. Drain and place in a mixing bowl. Add sour cream, milk, butter, salt and pepper. Beat on medium – low speed until light and fluffy. Stir in 2 cups cheese, bacon and onions.

Transfer to a greased 3-quart baking dish. Top with remaining cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted.

Yield: 14 servings.

Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorite recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Keeping you warm on a cold winter's night.

Inside where it's warm and safe, dreams take shape.
So, in a sense, the products and services we deliver could power your wildest dreams.

North Carolina's
electric cooperatives

Touchstone Energy®

ATTENTION!

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

Here's a plan that can provide

CASH TO HELP WITH FINAL EXPENSES

Up to $35,000!*

* Selected Maximums Apply

**Now you can have a Life Insurance Plan to help cover your Final Expenses –
A plan which pays up to $35,000 to help your family cover your last expenses – Worldwide.**

- Protection up to $35,000
- Benefits begin first day
- Eligible up to age 85
- No physical exam required, based on coverage
- No waiting period
- Proceeds immediately available at death of insured
- Company cannot cancel your plan, reduce your benefits or raise your premium
- Can cost only pennies a day
- Whole Life Insurance Policies BL & BL-SL40 Underwritten by Continental General Life Insurance Company

Plan 1: Most Health Conditions Accepted!

Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000*

Issue Age	Male	Female
5	$ .50	$ .41
15	$ .54	$ .45
35	$ 1.02	$ .94
55	$ 2.62	$ 2.38
65	$ 4.76	$ 4.25
75	$ 8.95	$ 7.86
85	$17.00	$14.70

*BL BAND II, NL-SL33 SELECT DOES NOT INCLUDE POLICY FEE, MINIMUMS APPLY

CLIP AND MAIL COUPON TODAY!

ACT NOW!

FINAL EXPENSE
3700 FOREST DRIVE, SUITE 205
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

☐ PLAN 1 Yes, I would like to know more about the new plan!
☐ PLAN 2 Please provide information on Low Medicare Supplement Rates

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Telephone _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY TO RECEIVE FULL DETAILS WITHOUT OBLIGATION

CC 02/04

Plan 2: Unbelievable Medicare Supplement Rates!

We have the **most competitive Medicare Supplement Rates Anywhere!**
Please check Block #2 for more information and rates. Discount Drug Card and Automatic Claims Filing included at **NO EXTRA COST!**